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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives 'Important' Message From Saddam

Delivered By Tariq 'Aziz

LD0202145691 Rabat MAP in English 1335 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Tunis, Feb. 2 (MAP)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received Friday [1 Feb] "an important" message from Iraqi peer Saddam Husayn pertaining to the latest political and military developments of the Gulf war, Palestinian news agency (WAFA) said. The message was conveyed Thursday to the Palestinian Ambassador to Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad at a meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who stressed the soundness of the Iraqi stance and resistance regarding the savage aggression waged against the Arab nation and the Palestinian issue, WAFA said. It is the first message by Iraqi president to Palestinian peer since the outbreak of the Gulf war, observers said.

'Arafat's Adviser Comments

LD0202204391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The PLO, since the beginning of the war, has stood by the side of Iraq. This Palestinian standpoint does not (?please) the West, and Pierre Maurois, the former French prime minister, said: With this stance, the PLO has lost the ability to represent the Palestinians in any negotiations which might take place after the end of the war.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, president 'Arafat's adviser, comments in the following interview granted to correspondent Djamila Rouabhia, on the statements of Pierre Maurois, and answers other questions concerning the present war.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Sharif] I would like to say first that the remarks by Maurois are very funny, at the same time, disgraceful.

[Rouabhia] Yes.

[Abu-Sharif] Yes, it brings disgrace to him. Some officials in the West believe that democracy is a right for them only, and is prohibited to other peoples. Mr. Maurois believes that with his decision, or on that of the Socialist International, it would be possible to define who would represent the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have democratic traditions, and the one who will represent the Palestinian people is the one chosen by the Palestinian people, and not the one chosen by Mr. Maurois or other European or U.S. political circles.

We see these statements as funny on one hand, because it is baseless, and cannot become a reality, and brings disgrace to them, to those who claim to be democrats; but when matters concern our Arab and Islamic peoples, they behave with a racism beyond imagination. They deprive us of democracy, and behave with us as if we were humans of a third or fourth class.

The PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people because the Palestinian people decided that the PLO is their legitimate and sole representative. This was not decided in the European capitals, nor in the U.S. capital, and not even in the Arab capitals. The Palestinian people decide who represents them.

[Rouabhia] It is widely claimed that the PLO has received an order from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to strike at Israel from Lebanon. What is your comment?

[Abu-Sharif] This also is ridiculous. In fact we should not answer it. Because you asked me, however, I will. This is ridiculous. We do not take orders from anyone, particularly when the matter concerns resisting Israel and its occupation of Palestine and South Lebanon. The policy of the PLO, the declared and practiced policy, is to resist the Israeli occupation in our occupied territories and to support our Lebanese brothers in resisting the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Since 1982, when Israel violated the cease-fire agreement arranged by the United States through Philip Habib, the cease-fire agreement has collapsed. Since that day we have been exposed to Israeli air and sea attacks. In fact, the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon has continued since that date. Therefore, we are in a state of war against Israel. We have not stopped, and we will reply and defend ourselves and our camps. We will cooperate with our Lebanese brothers in defending the villages of southern Lebanon. We will reply to the Israeli attacks according to our abilities and resources, and we will continue to resist the occupation.

[Rouabhia] Mr. Bassam Abu Sharif, everyone is talking about an important message sent by President Saddam Husayn to president 'Arafat. What are the contents of the message?

[Abu-Sharif] As the president said yesterday, this message was addressed to him by the Iraqi leadership because it was addressed to all leaders of the Nonaligned countries. The message dealt with developments in the Gulf, and the destructive war launched by the United States and its allies against Iraq. It has become clear now that the aim of President Bush is not, as he claimed, to implement the UN Security Council resolution. The aim of President Bush is to strike at the Iraqi infrastructure, military power, and economic power so that the United States can control all the Arab region and subjugate it. This is the new colonialism. This is the new order President Bush claims to pursue. This is what our Arab nation everywhere should combat.

[Rouabhia] Thank you, Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif. [end recording]

PLO Denies West Bank 31 Jan Missile Attack

NC0102123091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1205 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Citing information from the citizens in the occupied Arab territories, the PLO affirmed that no Iraqi missiles fell in the northern area of the occupied West Bank last night, as the Israeli military spokesman claims.

The Palestinian news agency WAFA reported that a large number of Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories said that they had not seen any indication that a missile had fallen in the area or heard a missile explosion in the West Bank, the agency added.

The PLO challenged the Israeli military authorities to specify the location where the missile fell and to allow journalists to ascertain that for themselves.

Qaddumi Say Gulf War Against Palestinians

AU0202200491 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 2-3 Feb 91 p 4

[Andreas Schwarz report: "I Am Older Than Israel, but Shamir Is To Go Back to Poland"]

[Text] Vienna—The PLO does not support Iraq, but Iraq supports the PLO." In an interview with DIE PRESSE, PLO "Foreign Minister" Faruq Qaddumi rejected the accusation that he accepts Kuwait's occupation: As the chairman of the Arab League, he insisted right from the beginning on the Kuwaiti question being an internal Arab affair "and I said at the League summit that we should reject, but not condemn Kuwait's occupation because a condemnation would be an invitation for a foreign intervention, above all by the United States."

Qaddumi is convinced that an inner-Arab solution would have been possible for the Kuwait problem—with compromises on both sides. But unfortunately the United States turned to the Security Council to achieve Iraq's condemnation and the concentration of its troops in the region, Qaddumi asserted.

The Americans subsequently obstructed every compromise and in Baghdad the UN secretary general also represented the U.S. position, but not that of Europe, where a Middle East conference was also considered, he said.

Qaddumi does not deny that the PLO has lost all its reputation because of its support for Husayn; but the PLO's preparedness for negotiations has not proved to be successful in any respect.

Its peace initiative was rejected, and then the United States also broke off dialogue with the Palestinians. It is only a pretext that this happened because the PLO did not want to condemn a terrorist attack, said Qaddumi, who complains that double standards are applied: Washington obstructed UN investigations on a massacre in a Palestinian camp five days before, he said.

By the way, terror is not a PLO option. The Liberation Front officially renounced terror as a political means, and this is also still valid (despite Saddam Husayn's threats with terror) today, he said. He cannot guarantee, however, that there will be no Palestinian terrorist attacks.

In view of the whipped up Palestinian masses, can he invalidate the Israeli argument that the Iraqi missiles would be right at Israel's door if a Palestinian state had already been established? "Palestine is older than Israel. I am a Palestinian and the owner of Palestine. The Israelis are thieves. They came and settled in my country. I lived in Jaffa. Jaffa is occupied. Now they claim that this is their right." In reality the United Nations divided Palestine into two states and gave "them (the Israelis) part of my country; and now they deprive us of the right to own our state. Mr. Shamir comes from Poland, I come from Palestine and I am older than Israel. He should go back to Poland."

Therefore, the war that is waged by the Americans and the international troops in the Gulf is also one against the Palestinians, he said. "They are fighting against us because they support Israel."

At any rate, Saddam Husayn will not lose, "this is a hundred percent certain." Qaddumi is convinced that the United States will have to withdraw from the Middle East forever as it did from Vietnam. The PLO foreign minister does not want to develop a scenario for the time which follows, "This is only a hypothesis." There must be a compromise, however, "otherwise there will be a catastrophe." Will it be a Middle East in which Israel does not exist any longer (after all, Saddam Husayn repeatedly threatened to destroy it)? Qaddumi does not want to hear of it: Saddam repeatedly said that he supports the—still valid and clear—Palestinian initiative, which says: coexistence of Israelis and Palestinians with equal rights. He himself talked of it." The assertion that the Palestinians want "to throw" Israel "into the sea" is "an old lie."

So why did Saddam Husayn announce Israel's destruction? Qaddumi contradicts this by saying that he only did so in case Israel attacks Iraq. But Israel has not attacked Iraq and missiles are still being shot at it? But there were indications that Israel planned an attack on Iraw last spring, Qaddumi asserted. But this did not happen? "Yes, Israel made an attack." When? "In 1981 on the reactor of Osirak. Israel is at war with Iraq...." At any rate, the aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the Arab League and the PLO is committed to fight at Iraq's side, he said.

PFLP's Habash Says War Helps PLO's Cause

AU0102170991 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 31 Jan 91 p 4

[Georg Possanner report on interview with George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in Damascus; date not given: "The Gulf War Helps Our Cause"]

[Text] "The overwhelming majority of the Arab population is against America and Israel and, therefore, very enthusiastically supports Saddam Husayn and Iraq." In an interview with DER STANDARD in his strongly guarded headquarters, George Habash, 65, Greek-Orthodox Christian and leader of the extreme Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), appears to be convinced that the Gulf war helps the cause of the PLO.

"The Palestinians within and outside the Israeli-occupied territories have been elated since they saw the Iraqi Army hit targets on the territory of the Zionist enemy, which gives them new hope for their own struggle."

Habash mentions that only after the "American invasion" of the Arab Peninsula was the Gulf war linked to the Palestinian problem, something that would not have been possible solely as a consequence of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. "Therefore, the Gulf war helps our cause." Now, Palestinian and all-Arab nationalism have been coupled.

The Palestinians fully agreed with U.S. President Bush when he mentioned a new world order on the basis of international legitimacy and justice. Of course, legitimacy must not be restricted to the UN resolution against Iraq, but must include all resolutions on the Palestinian problem adopted by the Security Council of the UN General Assembly.

This position of Habash's is completely different from that of Syria, which rejects any linkage between the Gulf war and the Palestinian issue. "A solution to this problem cannot be achieved by making the Kuwaitis a people without a home country," Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman stated.

Said Habash: "The presence of Iraqi Forces in Kuwait is as unjustified as the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory has been for 23 years. Can you tell me why the United States, Britain, and France have not done anything against it, while the whole world is up in arms because of their actions concerning Kuwait? Justice must be distributed evenly."

Despite the fact that published opinion is usually censored in Syria, the PFLP chief can freely express such thoughts, albeit only to the foreign press.

The popularity of Saddam Husayn, who has now already managed to hold his own against the strongest powers in the world, is also reflected in the stance taken by King Hassan of Morocco and King Husayn of Jordan. King Hassan has just authorized a 24-hour solidarity strike with the Iraqis, Habash said.

The Hashemite monarch is "currently taking the only possible correct position." Since a touch of democracy has been felt in Jordan, the king no longer dares to stand up against the feelings of the masses.

What if Saddam loses the war, which is what most people believe? "In that case—God forbid—the Arab masses will continue their struggle," Habash says with certainty. He cannot be lured into criticizing Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who proclaims the exact opposite, and whose destructive criticism of "criminal Saddam" continues unabated in the controlled media.

In the West, the PFLP leader is considered to be one of the most dangerous terrorists. Asked about this, Habash does not show any emotion and answers calmly: "We are freedom fighters and not terrorists. We fight against military targets in Israel and the occupied territories."

Asked whether a bus full of children is a military target, Habash said: "A military target defines itself." Then he added: "When we recognize military targets outside the occupied areas nobody can prevent us from attacking them."

Islamic Jihad Group Threatens Attacks on West

Spokesman Interviewed

AU0102180091 Berlin DER MORGEN in German 26 Jan 91 pp 1-2

[Interview with Nadr Tamimi, spokesman of the terrorist group Palestinian Islamic Jihad, by DER MORGEN correspondent A. Schoenhuber in Amman; date not given: "We Will Attack U.S. Facilities"]

[Text] In the Jordanian capital of Amman, numerous Islamic fundamentalist groups are currently calling for a holy war against the United States and its allies. They find increasing support for their calls. DER MORGEN's A. Schoenhuber met with the spokesman of the radical group Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Nadr Tamimi. He is a lawyer and the mufti of the PLO Army in Jordan.

[Schoenhuber] What do mean by holy war or jihad, for which your group has called?

[Tamimi] Jihad means that every injustice in the world should be eliminated. Jihad is obligatory if foreign groups are stationed on Arab soil, or if a single Muslim is taken prisoner. Everybody who fails to wage a war against the infidels now will not go to heaven.

[Schoenhuber] You are speaking of justice; however, is it not unjust if innocent people are killed in your holy war that you want to wage against the United States and its allies?

[Tamimi] The West has deployed troops in the Arab world in order to attack Iraqi women and children only because this Arab country is so strong. Thus, if we speak about justice, we are entitled to strike back in the Western countries. This is our reaction to the bombardments.

[Schoenhuber] Your organization has claimed responsibility for several attacks. What have you done so far?

[Tamimi] Our operations have so far been limited to the occupied territories, that is, to Israel. One of our men drove a bus full of Israelis into an abyss, for example. A total of 23 Israelis were killed. We are not a Palestinian organization, but an Islamic one. This means that we can rely on support everywhere in the world. Now we want to attack all Western countries that participate in the aggression against Iraq.

[Schoenhuber] How many members does your group have?

[Tamimi] Everybody who follows the call of the imam and fights in the jihad belongs to us.

[Schoenhuber] I saw two armed men. Of whom are you afraid in Jordan?

[Tamimi] The Israeli secret service is our enemy. It has already tried to attack us five times.

[Schoenhuber] Generally, are your men in Jordan armed?

[Tamimi] We have secret members who are armed. They are in all parts of the country. This is all I can say.

[Schoenhuber] Do you think that you will have problems with the Jordanian Government? The leader of the Islamic Liberation Party has been arrested recently.

[Tamimi] Our actions are not directed against the government, and we do not carry out our operations in Jordan. We fulfill our duties as Jordanian citizens. If the government takes action against us, we will transfer our headquarters to another country. The government will not take actions against us. As long as we are welcome in Jordan, the government will not have problems with us.

[Schoenhuber] You are also the mufti of the PLO army. Some Palestinians are disappointed that the PLO does not actively participate in the war. What is your opinion?

[Tamimi] As PLO mufti, I observe the shari'a, that is, the Islamic law. I view Palestine as the 20th Iraqi province. Kuwait is the 19th province, and Palestine should also belong to Iraq. I am disappointed that there are no kamikaze actions on the part of the PLO against the aggressors. The PLO leadership is making a mistake by not creating martyrs. I am for the liberation of Palestine, but not for the creation of a Palestinian state. I believe in an Arab leader in an Arab country without borders. This is stipulated in the shari'a, and this is the meaning of the jihad.

[Schoenhuber] Should this leader be Saddam Husayn?

[Tamimi] At the moment yes, despite the fact that we were against Saddam Husayn during the war between Iran and Iraq. Saddam has stated, however, that he was driven into this war. In addition, Saddam has become a good Moslem now, and he fights for the liberation of Palestine. By uniting Iraq and Kuwait, he showed that he plans to unite all Arab countries.

[Schoenhuber] If your organization launches attacks against U.S. facilities, you will also injure or kill civilians.

[Tamimi] We need justice. The West is currently killing civilians in Iraq. What is wrong with defending oneself and killing civilians of the other side in the Western countries? This is justice. We believe in the principle: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. This does not mean that we are basically in favor of killing civilians, because the Prophet Muhammad told his troops: You should not kill children or attack women. As Moslems, we are not in favor of killing civilians. The Koran also says, however: If somebody does something to me, I can do the same thing to him.

[Schoenhuber] When would you be prepared to stop your actions?

[Tamimi] Once Palestine is liberated.

[Schoenhuber] Does this mean that Israel has no right to exist?

[Tamimi] Israel is not the main enemy. We will wage a holy war whenever there is aggression against Muslims.

[Schoenhuber] Do you not feel sorry for the people who die in your attacks?

[Tamimi] During a war, it happens that innocent people are killed. One can never rule out such mistakes. We do not want to kill innocent people who are against your government, for example.

[Schoenhuber] Do you want to attack facilities in Germany as well?

[Tamimi] I like Germany and the Germans. They want to be free and have achieved unification. Of course, I do not approve of Germany giving money to Israel. People are demonstrating against the war in Germany, however. This is good. Because we have respect for the Germans, we will not attack them. We might attack U.S. facilities in Germany, however. We are thinking of a U.S. facility near Frankfurt, for example.

Alludes to Mubarak Assassation Plot

SK0102155591 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 30 Jan 91 p 5

[Interview with Asad al-Tamimi, spiritual leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, in an office in Husayn Street in Amman, Jordan, on 29 January, by CHOSON ILBO correspondent Sol Wan-sik—first four paragraphs are correspondent's note]

[Text] I met Asad al-Tamimi, the spiritual leader of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, a radical Palestinian organization, in an office located in Husayn Street in Jabal [location as transliterated], Amman, Jordan, at around 1100 on 29 January. The al-Jihad, organized in 1980, is a radical organization known to have conducted terrorist activities on several occasions in Lebanon and other places. It is also learned that this organization has close relations with the PLO and Islamic organizations in the area of the West Bank occupied by Israel.

In the interview, which lasted for about an hour, al-Tamimi claimed that the Gulf war will end in an Iraqi victory and will unite the Arab world.

He said that any government of an Arab state that follows a pro-U.S. line will be replaced in a few days, thus suggesting a plan for assassination of some Arab leaders. Al-Tamimi warned that if the ROK participates in the multinational forces militarily, the ROK can be a target of Al-Jihad.

Al-Tamimi, who is 66 years old, showed weariness but looked very healthy for his age and consistently showed a kind attitude.

[Sol] What is your opinion on the Gulf war?

[Al-Tamimi] Saddam Husayn has fostered national strength, including military power, ever since the eighties; Iraq has grown so as to pose a threat from the Arab world to the imperialist forces. The war was prompted by schemes of the great powers in the West, including the United States, to destroy the dangerous Iraqi armed forces.

The United States outwardly made a UN resolution for the liberation of Kuwait and the protection of oil fields in the Middle East. Its genuine purpose, however, is to divide and rule the Arab sphere.

[Sol] What is your evaluation of Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Tamimi] He is a strong man. He is a symbolic leader who will expel outside forces from Muslim areas and will achieve the independence and unification of all Arab nations based on the belief in Allah and with powerful armed forces.

[Sol] What is your view on the Gulf war prospects?

[Al-Tamimi] At the outset, the United States propagandized that it would win victory in a short time. But the war is being prolonged. Besides, the U.S. and Western mass media said that the multinational forces destroyed 80 percent of Iraqi military facilities through air attacks. But this is a lie. Iraq's damage is estimated to be only five-10 percent at the present. Iraq will show its genuine strength during the forthcoming ground battle. If the war is prolonged, Saddam Husayn will win the victory with full support from Arab people. He will also win because of the operational disadvantages of terrain and distance that the United States will suffer, and because of the antiwar pressure on Bush within the United States.

[Sol] What changes do you anticipate in the Arab world in the event that Iraq is defeated?

[Al-Tamimi] The United States will attempt to being to the front a new pro-West figure and to establish a pro-U.S. regime in the Middle East area so that it can divide and rule the Arab sphere.

[Sol] What are recent activities of Al-Jihad?

[Al-Tamimi] Although it was reported that the bomb attack in Greece and Turkey was part of our act, I have not received any report on this from my subordinate units.

[Sol] What is your plan for future activities?

[Al-Tamimi] A regime in an Arab state will be replaced in a few days. You had better watch the result.

[Al-Tamimi] Is this related to an intelligence report on the plan to assassinate Egyptian President Mubarak as revealed by Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Tamimi] You will know when you see the result.

[Sol] What do you think of the ROK?

[Al-Tamimi] Koreans are very good people. But I understand that the ROK Government is being manipulated by the United States. I think the ROK is not related to this war up to this point. But in the event that the ROK militarily participates in the multinational forces, the ROK can be a target of our attack.

Intifadah Call No. 67 Urges Support for Iraq

LD0202191991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Intifadah Call No. 67, "The Call of Steadfastness and Defiance"—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
No voice is higher than the voice of the intifadah.
Call No. 67: Call of Steadfastness and Defiance, issued by the Unified National Leadership:

O masses of our struggling and steadfast people,
O sons of the glorious intifadah,

The imperialist forces of aggression, led by the United States, continue their savage and ferocious attack against the glorious Iraqi people, attempting to bend their legendary steadfastness and valiance in confronting the onslaught of imperialist hegemony. With the fighting in the Gulf entering its second week [as heard], it is becoming clear to the world that the objectives of the aggressors, who were hiding behind the objective of liberating Kuwait, are to destroy Iraq and its people, to liquidate it economically, politically, and militarily, and to plan its division into spheres of influence for American imperialism and its lackeys in the region. It has become clear that the United States has unceasingly worked to thwart every peaceful initiative in order to further its plots for the destruction of Iraq, imposing its economic, military, and political hegemony over the Arab region and its resources, and to impose a capitulative solution to the Palestinian question that includes the liquidation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the just cause of our people.

The hostile campaign against the Palestinian people waged by the United States and its satellites is only part of the supervised preparation to achieve the political objectives of the treacherous aggression on the heroic people of Iraq. Furthermore, the main part of her [the United States'] activities in the Arab world is now geared to taking control of the obsolete regimes hated by their peoples, turning them against the Arab liberation forces hostile to American hegemony.

The Palestinian and Arab struggle to thwart the new American onslaught means solidarity and firm support for the Iraqi people in its struggle against the most savage and large-scale aggression carried out by American imperialism since the Vietnam War.

The aggressors lie when they assert that they are supporting UN principles, freedom, and peace. They are daily shelling the Iraqi people with thousands of tons of explosives, causing colossal Iraqi civilian losses. They are striking at the basis of civilization and human heritage, i.e. bridges, dams, electric lines, water irrigation systems, and treasures of human heritage which humanity created on Iraqi soil.

Our people do not support war; its representatives have strenuously tried to avoid the appalling results of the current Gulf war. Thanks to its special experience gained because of American racist opposition in these circumstances our people understand that such a war aims at Iraq's people and its resources as well as the interests of the Arab nation. It is also against the Palestinian cause before anything else.

Hypocrisy in the policies of the American leadership is blatant and frivolous, because when they talk about international legality they exclude Israel, South Africa, and all other dictators/agents of America everywhere in the world.

We thus call on all Arab peoples to support the Iraqi people in its steadfastness against the Atlantic-Zionist aggression. We also call on the arab masses in the states which are participating in the imperialist alliance to rise against their regimes and demand that these regimes withdraw from this wicked alliance against a fraternal Arab country. We also call for an economic boycott on goods from states participating in the aggression against Iraq.

This war has confirmed the demise of all previous theories regarding the imposition of secure borders by force, and reaffirmed that security can only be made available when just solutions for all problems of the region are made available, at the forefront of which is the question of the Palestinian people. Within this framework we call on the Soviet Union to change its stance toward the Gulf crisis, and to stop allowing American imperialism to implement its plans. We call on the Soviet Union to take serious initiatives to stop the aggression and guarantee the application of a peaceful solution based on comprehensive linkage between all the problems of the region, including the convening of an international conference with the participation of the PLO, and guaranteeing a solution that secures the rights of the Palestinian people, reaffirming that the occupation measures will not stop the struggle of the Palestinian masses, and that the intifadah will continue until the occupation is defeated and the total independence is realized and our independent national state is established on our national soil.

Our Palestinian people is now suffering the worst type of racial discrimination at the hands of the occupation authorities, which have left it without any means of protection, are trying to hold the whole people hostage, and are placing all kinds of obstacles against any humane assistance directed to it, while arresting all its men, women, and children under the cover of a savage and ferocious curfew system. At this historic time our people appeal to all forces of world peace and all forces of Arab solidarity to muster their efforts to bring about an immediate halt to the aggression in the Gulf, the eviction of all foreign forces from the region, and the solving of the Gulf crisis within the framework of the Arab family, free from imperialist interference. Our Palestinian people calls on all international establishments, particularly the United Nations Organization, at the forefront of which is the UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency], to shoulder their responsibilities and make available means and methods of protection for the Palestinian people.

Masses of our struggling people: By your steadfastness, valor, and good organization, you have proven your ability to face up to all difficulties. Today when the occupation authorities are trying to exploit the Gulf war in order to wipe out the international support which the intifadah has realized for our people, and are exploiting the compulsory curfew to liquidate the elements of our struggle and subject our people to danger by depriving it of the simplest means of protection, your reply was manifested in more self-organization, the election and expansion of people's committees, and the revival of the committees in the residential quarters, as well as the establishment of civil defense and guard committees, and the development of the widest network of first aid and medical assistance.

The Unified National Leadership calls on you to display more solidarity and cohesion and to develop the family-assistance system in these difficult circumstances, and to further develop the activities and role of the people's committees and the committees in the residential quarters as well as the first aid committees, and the food and supplies' assistance, and to make all necessary efforts to develop the steadfastness of our people and to foil every attempt to shake up our people's resolute insistence on gaining its land and homeland and achieve its national independence through its sole legitimate representative—the PLO.

The Unified National Leadership also urges the popular masses in all our cities, villages, and camps to address hundreds of appeals to world public opinion and to the world peaceloving forces, demanding a halt to the current aggression in the Gulf and calling for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign forces and the settlement of all problems of the region, at the top of which is the

Palestinian question, in a manner that ensures the principles of genuine justice and peace, so as to prove to the world that the voice of our people will remain audible despite the curfew and the oppressive measures.

On this occasion, the Unified National Leadership would like to convey its respect and appreciation to the valiant Palestinian detainees and those imprisoned in the detention camps.

O our struggling masses, the aggressors will fail as they have repeatedly failed before. The struggle of our Palestinian people and its glorious intifadah will continue. The bayonets of the aggressors will break as they have broken before on the rock of steadfastness of peoples struggling for their right to dignity, freedom, and national independence.

The front opposing the aggression and war will expand and will sooner or later expose the objectives of the aggressors to all Arab and world peoples.

The Unified National Leadership calls on the masses to follow the mobilization and moral guidance committee directives regarding behavior in the conditions of war and to preserve the manifestations of the intifadah, particularly in the area of Jerusalem, and to set up emergency and civil defense committees in all localities.

Owing to the conditions of curfew imposed on our people, the strike scheduled for 9 February, is to be replaced by hoisting flags and Koran recitations in the mosques, and tolling church bells at noon, to salute the intifadah while it enters its 38th month.

Long live the steadfastness of the Palestinian people;
Long live the struggle of our people for freedom and national independence;
Defeat to the imperialist aggressors,
Glory to the steadfastness of the fraternal people of Iraq;

Let the struggle widen for halting the treacherous aggression against Iraq, for a ceasefire, and for a guarantee of a genuine and just peace for all peoples of the region.

[Signed] The Unified National Leadership of the intifadah, the state of Palestine.

Algeria

Benjedid Receives Message from Yemen's Salih

LD0302205891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] The situation in the Gulf region was today the focus of a meeting granted by President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid to the special Yemeni envoy Yusuf Muhammad al-Shahhari, vice chairman of the Yemeni House of Representatives.

Shahhari handed President Chadli Bendjedid a message from his Yemeni counterpart 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

After leaving the office of the president of the republic, the Yemeni envoy told the press that the message contained an affirmation of Yemen's position in the mutual confrontation with the imperialist assault that is being led by Washington, and whose aims are to force the region to bow down, and to control its affairs and all of its resources.

Ghozali Assails Use of Force Against Iraq

LD0402145191 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Brussels, 4 Feb (APS)—"Everything that has been done since the beginning of the Gulf crisis on August 2, is certainly not the best means to manage the crisis" Algerian Foreign Minister, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, declared Sunday in a debate oganized by Belgian radio and television. The program and the participation of Sid Ahmed Ghozali benefited from a maximum listening and watching rate as it has been sufficiently announced in time by Belgian media, mainly the radio and tv stations. The interests of observers particularly the press, was high as Ghozali was back from Tehran where diplomatic delegations went arousing curiosity and speculation on peace initiatives. In this context, Ghozali who was asked about his trip to Tehran said that "without consultation with others, we went to Tehran [to] see with Iranian officials what we can do to contribute to ending the damage".

"What we notice today," Ghozali said, "is that 15 to 20 tons of bombs are poured daily on Iraq, namely the equivalent of Hiroshima. And these shellings are aimed at immense regions which have nothing to do with strategy."

Asked why Saddam accepted the clash then, the Algerian foreign minister replied that there is a difference between accepting the clash and declaring war. Are we really convinced that it is the defence of international law which led to this war, he wondered? He said that peoples do not believe in the argument of the defence of international law. If this concerns international legality, let us discuss but in the complete meaning as this international legality is flouted since 40 years in Palestine [as received]. Has anyone mobilized the same means to put an end to this attempt on international legality, he added.

It is, Ghozali continued, a grave decision and a tragic error not to have given enough time for negotiation, recalling that the logic of war as prevailed well before the resolution of the Security Council "which authorized in an illegal way resorting to force", the intentions of the coalition armies were to defend Saudi Arabia.

Today, the aim of the war is to destroy Iraq and the British said that even after the liberation of Kuwait war may continue against. [as received]

Concerning the U.S.-Soviet statement, Ghozali said "this is the beginning of an opening." Concerning the Euro-Maghreb peace initiative or rather the French-Algerian one, he said "yes... but as the key to the Palestinian problem is in the hands of America and Europe has not yet its autonomy of decision".

He concluded by saying that this war occured simply because a commitment was refused: that the international community seriously tackles the Palestinian question.

Scholars Criticize U.S. Gulf Aims

LD0302130891 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] The radio has received a call from the Association of Algerian Muslim Scholars addressed to the Islamic Arab nation and to human conscience throughout the world.

The text of the call says in brief that there is a brave people in the land of the two rivers [Iraq], which is being burned down and destroyed by the most modern firearms, and there is a raging war whose fuse was lit by the United States and which is fanned under the influence of international Zionism. The United States coerced the states within its orbit and snatched the false legitimacy from the UN Security Council, taking this as a cover in order to destroy the power of Arabs and Muslims and the civilization of Islam, motivated by concealed hatred and masked racism.

The scholars of Algeria stand as one man with the fraternal Iraqi people and call on human conscience in the whole world to stand in the face of the American satanic alliance and condemn the elimination of man and the destruction of the landmarks of Islamic and human civilization in Iraq.

Egypt

Mubarak Attends Briefing With Military Commanders

NC0302153091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak paid a four-hour visit this morning to the Armed Forces General Command at the Ministry of Defense. His excellency held a meeting attended by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, defense minister and commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces;

Air Force Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasr, commander of the Air Force; and Major General Muhammad Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman, commander of the Air Defense. The meeting was also attended by the chief of operations, the chief of Military Intelligence, and the secretary general of the Ministry of Defense.

A military source said that President Mubarak explained to the commanders of the Armed Forces the military and political situation in all its dimensions. He also explained the possibilities expected in the next stage.

The source added that the supreme commander of the Armed Forces [Mubarak] was briefed on plans to keep the republic secure and on the tasks of all branches of the Armed Forces to confront any threat and to protect the homeland's security and sovereignty.

The military source said that President Mubarak spoke on the telephone—while he was at the Command Headquarters—with Staff Major General Salah Halabi, commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia. The president was reassured about the conditions of the Armed Forces in Hafr al-Batin and the safety of all personnel. The president expressed his confidence in the men of the Armed Forces and their capability to fulfill their national and pan-Arab duties.

Reportage on 'Abd-al-Majid Visit to U.S., Italy

'Eager' for Mideast Peace Conference

PM0102150291 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 31 Jan 91 p 3

[Hamdi Fu'ad report: "'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid Says: Peace Moves Linked To Iraq's Withdrawal From Kuwait"]

[Text] Washington—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy foreign minister and foreign minister, has announced that a cease-fire in the Gulf is desirable if Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is announced and started, but it is inconceivable as long as Iraq's forces continue to occupy Kuwait.

In exclusive remarks to AL-AHRAM Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that it must be clear that the move toward peace depends principally on a withdrawal. He added: Egypt, the United States, and other sides will concentrate their attention on achieving peace in the Middle East and resolving the Palestinian issue. He said that Egypt is eager to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that no one wanted to destroy Iraq, but those concerned should be anxious to protect and preserve Iraq. By adopting such a dangerous position and refusing to withdraw, they are actually exposing their people to danger. We cannot blame others. The hope is that those in charge will make a decision to spare their country this devastating war.

The minister said that the U.S. side had stressed this, and that the military operations are aimed at specific targets in order to force Iraq to withdraw and to persuade it to abandon its intransigent position.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that Egypt made numerous attempts and President Husni Mubarak made numerous appeals to prevent the war. Many Arab, Eastern, and Western states made similar attempts, but all were completely rejected, and that intransigence led to the present situation.

On the Palestinian issue, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that it is the crux of the Middle East problem and that Egypt made great sacrifices and efforts to support the Palestinian people, who have a legitimate entitlement to recover all their rights.

He also said that after the Gulf war U.S. President George Bush, Egypt, and other sides would concentrate their attention on peace in the Middle East, which cannot be achieved without resolving the Palestinian issue.

With regard to security measures in the region and the possibility of the U.S. forces' staying after the crisis ends, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: The United States emphasized that it would not stay in the region after the crisis and that the U.S. forces' mission would end and the Arab force's role would start. Saudi Arabia requested the presence of Arab and fraternal forces. The matter is very clear: The region's security must stem from within, not from outside. It is the region's states that must choose what framework they want for their security. This matter is subject to dialogue between Egypt and a large number of Arab states that are interested in bringing about security, cooperation, and stability.

With regard to the period of peace that will start after the war has ended and that is being discussed, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that he met with Lee Hamilton, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, who has prepared studies on the post-war stage. He added that it is an important stage that must be prepared for starting now. We want peace and security to prevail.

The foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with the results of his talks with the Soviet foreign minister, saying that they confirmed the friendly relations between the two countries. He also praised the Soviet position, its role in improving and developing bilateral relations, and its full support for the Security Council resolutions.

Regarding the economic talks which were attended by 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt has taken important measures recently and that he had informed U.S. officials of the prime minister's statement to the People's Assembly.

Urges Israeli Restraint

NC0302025991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn may spare Iraq devastation if he commits himself to withdraw from Kuwait. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: Should the Iraqi president commit himself unequivocally to withdrawal in the interest of ending the suffering of the Iraqi people, Egypt would support a cease-fire in the Gulf. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said Egypt does not stand for the destruction of Iraq, but for the liberation of Kuwait. He indicated that all actions taken thus far by the allied forces are compatible with UN Security Council resolutions.

Any postwar security arrangements must come from the countries of the region rather than be imposed on them by others, Dr. 'Abd al-Majid added.

Emerging from talks in Rome with his Italian counterpart, 'Abd-al-Majid told a news conference he hopes Israel will continue to exercise restraint and refrain from retaliation for the Iraqi missile attacks. He warned that an Israeli counterattack would carry dire consequences for the whole region. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister rejected President Saddam Husayn's attempts at linkage of the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis. He hoped negotiations toward a settlement of the Palestinian question would get under way as soon as the Gulf crisis is resolved.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt would like to see all mass destruction weapons destroyed or eliminated from the entire region.

Discusses Postwar Prospects

NC0202225191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Rome, 2 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt has not given up on the idea of a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. However, the indispensable condition is that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait. This could be followed by a cease-fire in the region. This came in statements by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid during a joint news conference with his Italian counterpart, Gianni de Michelis, held in Rome today.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that immediately after the liberation of Kuwait, the allied forces should withdraw from the Gulf, and all the weapons of mass destruction possessed by all the countries in the region without any exception should be destroyed.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and Gianni De Michelis voiced support for a conference comprising countries of the Mediterranean Basin, similar to the Helsinki conference, since this would be the best way to establish security and cooperation in the region following the termination of the Gulf war.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called for tackling the Palestinian problem immediately following the termination of war in the Gulf, because the Palestinian cause is the key to peace in the region.

At the conclusion of the news conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid thanked Italy for its political stand in support of Egypt's efforts to solve its economic problems, and for compensating the losses Egypt has incurred from the Gulf crisis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid made a short stopover in Rome today on his way back to Cairo from visits to Canada and the United States.

Visits Called 'Useful'

NC0302160591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, returned to Cairo from Rome today after a visit to the United States and Italy.

Upon arrival, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that his visit to Washington was "useful" and that he handed a letter from President Husni Mubarak to U.S. President George Bush. He said that he brought with him a letter from President Bush to President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Security Around U.S., Israeli Embassies Intensified

NC0302100291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—The authorities of Husni's regime have intensified the security measures around the U.S. and Zionist Embassies in Cairo. The Cairo newspaper AL-SHA'B said that the Egyptian authorities have sent additional armored cars to guard and protect the two embassies.

A wave of wrath and indignation prevails in the various sects of the Arab Egyptian people over the involvement of Husni's regime in the Zionist-U.S. plan which aims to destroy Iraq's land and people.

Morocco

King Hassan II Views Moroccan Troop Deployment

LD0102233491 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2147 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Speech by King Hassan II from the Royal Palace in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] God be praised. Prayers and peace be on our master, God's messenger, and his family and followers. My dear people:

I noticed, my dear people, that since the beginning of August last year we have met many, many times via radio and television. I repeated the meetings so that we could keep in continuous contact—a physical, mental, human, and political contact so that you, dear people of all sects and classes, would know what was happening in the direct and indirect international arenas and also so that you would know very well my motives for adopting one course of action and not another and for using this method and not another.

Now, my dear people, there is this fierce unnatural war that is religously and materially unacceptable, especially in the Islamic community: If two groups of believers fight, then you should reconcile them. [from the Koran] This has continued for more than 10 days—even more. Together with you, I would like to be an analyst and give you the factors and information that you do not know or have.

My dear people, it is our duty to know that the presence of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces in Saudi Arabia has a bilateral meaning and has friendly aims and is completely nonaggressive. This is because it came automatically from me. And it was not for an attack on any other Arab state. Its dispatch at the time and now was never part of a wider international plan, because at that time there was no plan.

Let us review recent events. When the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait took place, we adopted our stand which is already known to you. We stood alongside legitimacy because we proceed from the following principle: If the problem was between an Arab and a non-Arab, then there is no choice. We choose the Arab. [passage omitted]

If the problem was between two Arab states, we can choose on condition that we made our choice, convinced—as our conscience dictates to us—that this one is an oppressor and that one is a victim of that oppression, so that we can adopt an honorable and honest stand which enables us, if we were (?fairminded) after adopting our stand and formulated our attitude that we go backward so that we become after having been on one side—a friend to all and we become qualified to intervene with all so that we may be that bridge and viaduct that links the two quarrelling brothers. [sentence as heard].

On 2 August we announced our decision. We adopted our political stand. As soon as we adopted our stand we did so without a request from anyone. We sent two army officers and a third one was already there: They were General Abdelaziz Bennani, commander of the southern area, and Colonel Major Belhadj, who is director of the cadres school. We attached to them our military attache Colonel al-Wazzani. We sent them to His Majesty King Fahd to tell him that Morocco and the king of Morocco and your brother before everything else decided to send a Moroccan force to stand alongside you, and it is a token force comprising 1,300 men. So it is not a big thing; but it is to support you so that you may be able to defend yourself in case of an Iraqi attack.

This travel by three officers, which I consider the commencement of sending the expedition, took place on 9 August. His Majesty King Fahd, when he was at the airport on his way to the Cairo summit, met with them in the airport for 20 minutes. He said to them, among other things: I am going to Cairo, and I have commitments. I am grateful. Complete your talks and studies with His Highness Prince Sultan, who, as you know, is the defense minister. This occurred on 9 August. Therefore, as far as I am concerned, the Moroccan Army arrived on 9 August.

The Cairo Arab summit ended the evening of 10 August. At that time the Arab countries decided that some of them should send soldiers to Saudi Arabia. After that the UN Security Council and the United Nations adopted numerous resolutions of various kinds and descriptions. At the end, a resolution was adopted to give Iraq a grace period to get out of Kuwait. At that time, as you will remember, the sending of huge and concentrated armies started in order to stand at the Saudi-Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders to violently demand that Iraq get out of Kuwait.

Here, my dear people, there is an important point which you will no doubt notice. The nature of the presence of our army is different from the legal nature of the presence of the other armies. The Moroccan Army is there according to my individual will, according to the complete sovereignty which Morocco enjoys in making its decisions, and according to the authorities given to the king of Morocco by our written and unwritten customs and traditions since Idris I to this Hassan II. More than that, our going there was within the context of virtue and friendship. Also within the context of preparing for the future so that we do not become a combatant on a fighting side which kills and is killed, our position was one of defense and support. Everyone knows that in spite of its advanced weapons and in spite of its advanced land and air forces, the Saudi Army cannot be compared to the Iraqi Army from the point of view of numbers, training, experts, officers, NCO's, soldiers, and mechanized vehicles.

Notwithstanding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position as a big, respected, and important Arab country, its military position was and still is much weaker than the required military standard. Our stance was first to help the one whom we thought was aggressed against and the one who was weaker than the other. Our stance was taken before anyone thought that foreign and non-Arab troops would be going there. Finally, we took our stance for the following reason: I should stand by the side of my brother in case he is attacked. I did not go there to fight Iraq and compel it to withdraw from Kuwait. No; however, I have tried and I will try even tonight, even tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow to convince Iraq to leave Kuwait so that this tragedy may end. No, I did not go there to tell Iraq to leave Kuwait; I went there to tell the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: We are with you if you are attacked.

The best proof for that was the fact that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first one to understand our position. It did not position our forces near the borders. It positioned the Moroccan contingent first in a place situated in the kingdom's northeastern part called Hafr al-Batin. Later it gave us our current position at al-Saffaniyah, which is about 55-60 km from the Kuwaiti-Saudi borders, near the biggest oil refinery in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Our army's position is still the same, and it is still fortifying itself by erecting sand walls. Anyone who wants to go there to see for himself can do so after receiving my brother His Majesty King Fahd's permission to allow me to send our television and press correspondents. They will find that the Moroccan Army is, like in the Western Sahara where it defended its rights by taking defensive positions, erecting walls to ward off evil and not take evil beyond the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Second, my dear people, despite the scarcity of means and other material problems facing our troops, our weapons were our own; we took them from here. This matter would indicate that we are wholly outside the Joint Command for the forces there. Our weapons are mainly Kalashnikovs, a Russian weapon. We did not go there empty-handed and ask them to give us arms. Even our individual and collective arms were taken with us. We took Kalashnikov machineguns with us. We took 14.5-mm cannons with us. We took 23-mm cannons with us. The only non-Russian weapon we took with us that we did not use in Western Sahara was the antitank missile. It was the defensive antitank missiles, that is, TOW and Milan, which are U.S. and French weapons.

As for the trucks, we took along 197 combat jeeps, 42 pickups, and six special-purpose trucks. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gave us 43 pickup and transport trucks, six communications vehicles, seven water tankers, and three maintainance vehicles. We provided the rest ourselves. Therefore, we were not planning to join an international force that would supply us with weapons. Because we took our weapons, we also took the type of ammunition that fits them. The ammunition for the Kalashnikov is not the same as for the M-16. The M-16 fires 5.56 caliber. Kalashnikov fires 7.62 caliber. The 23-mm or 14.5 are Russian, that is, Warsaw Pact. They were not with the Americans, the French, the English, or anyone else.

Therefore, we went independently on this basis. We remained independent. The proof of this is that until now we were in contact only with the population and no one else. This earned us the admiration of the population of the kingdom and of the Saudi leadership. We do our own cooking. The food we buy comes from the shops, directly from there. [passage omitted]

You may ask me, dear people, why I am tackling this matter with you today? I am doing so because of the rumors surrounding the sending of our people. All constitutions in the world, regardless of the political system, give the head of state and the commander in chief of the armed forces the power to use the army as he thinks fit. I think it would be rather inquisitive on anyone's part to say today, hey, wait a moment: Circumstances have changed and are no longer the same. Well before passing any judgement one should first know all the details.

Some people might ask about the justification and the reason for our presence there? And under what terms are we there?

The proof for all that is the fact that we had already been there when the Jerusalem Committee met in our country, a matter which did not prevent us from meeting repeatedly with Iraqi envoys, among whom was the foreign minister and the deputy prime minister, Taha Yasin Ramadan. Since that date, channels have been open between them and us. We did not hear them asking what the Moroccan Army was doing there. They did not say anything against us because they knew the reason, the meaning, and the symbol of our presence.

Therefore, everyone should know that when the Moroccan Army is outside the country, anywhere in the world, I do not and I will not allow any criticism of its presence there because such criticism will be construed before law as detrimental to the morale of the army. [passage omitted]

All the security forces, whether gendarmes, police, or army, are all my responsibility and my trust; and they are serving all of Morocco and not just serving one side and not the other. They are in the service of all Moroccans, and they are not merchandise to be bought and sold in the street. They are an instrument of construction; they are a tool of work, a tool of glory. [passage omitted]

Today as I reminisce about the Moroccan Army I think of a tomorrow which might be full of optimism and which might contain signs of peace. Here again I address my friend, His Excellency President Saddam, and say to him: My brother, listen to what was said yesterday by the foreign ministers of the United States and the USSR. For the first time they say even more than that they will handle the Palestinian-Arab dossier. They did not say: If Iraq gets out of Kuwait... No. They said: If the Iraqi authorities announced publicy their wish to get out of Kuwait. We will raise our hands in peace and stop the war, and immediately we will move to the next stage, which is to look internationally at the dossier of the Middle East, at the Palestinian issue—they mentioned it—and at the Arab-Israeli conflict.

My brother Saddam, I hope these appeals and voices of mine will reach you. I hope that everything from me will reach you.

My brother Saddam, for God's sake, you have reached what you wanted. Stop here. You enter, get out, enter again, get out again from the doors of history; from the doors of prosperity, from the doors of chivalry; from the doors that made the walls of the houses of the Israeli enemy tremble under the bombs. [sentence as heard] For the first time since 1948, the Israeli mother and wife felt that she is not secure.

Brother Saddam, for God's sake, now you cannot say that you do not have the key. The key is in your hand... for the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people have the right to live. The Iraqi youth have the right to live. The Iraqi children have the right to live. The Arab-Israeli dossier has the right to get into the open, to be presented, and to be studied so that everyone can get what he is entitled to and so that this tension may disappear and this atmosphere of destruction, war, and fighting which prevailed for more than 40 years in that region may disappear. This atmosphere has dispersed people, hurt them, and killed many and exiled others.

Dear people, I am confident that the step taken by the two superpowers is a positive one. I hope that God may inspire my brother and friend. I say my brother and friend although we are not in agreement, and I am not the only one who disagrees with him. All the Arab countries voted at the United Nations, even the ones with reservations, voted in the end that Iraq has no chance in Kuwait. The whole world is in agreement on this, and this was despite our disagreement at the Arab League, and this is what is strange. I thought we would all be in agreement [word indistinct]. What is important is that despite our disagreement at the Arab League on 10 August, throughout September and October, when the United Nations and the Security Council met, all voted that Mr. Saddam must leave Kuwait.

I appeal to you by God, brother Saddam, in the name of the Palestinians themselves, in the name of the Palestinian women, in the name of the besieged in Gaza, in the name of Jerusalem, to comply with this appeal; especially because if the appeal is complied with, and King Fahd stood here and President Saddam stood there, the honor of each one of them would be maintained. President Saddam was not defeated, and King Fahd's country was not occupied. he is still standing at the border as well. Thus all the conditions for dignity, honor, and honorable peace are all there. Therefore, I appeal to you, brother Saddam, I appeal to you by God and fatherhood—because you are a father and a grandfather like me—to halt this war and to halt the wheel of history in order to open our file, so that a Palestinian nation and state will emerge from it, to give the Palestinians their pride and identity, and give the Arabs their real size, to be able then to appear in the eyes of the people and the world as a whole in their real civil constructive, cultured, creative and refined appearance.

I beseech God that this appeal from your brother reaches you, and I beseech God to inspire to comply [with this appeal] and light your heart and guide you. And to my dear people I say, these are clarifications that I wanted you to know, concerning my decision to send the Moroccan Army to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. My intention is that of a sincere and loyal Arab citizen. My action stems from my responsibility as a Moroccan king who enjoys his full powers, and no one will be allowed to challenge them.

Finally, I did so with compassion for all. I hope that the civil, military, gendarmerie, security, and auxiliery elements will coexist, as they did in the past, because we are all Moroccans. We are called upon to comply with the appeals of the homeland and to enlist for the sake of the homeland, and give the most precious things and souls for the sake of the homeland. [passage omitted]

'Huge' Demonstration in Rabat Supports Iraq

Banners, Slogans Condemn War

LD0302223391 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpt] A huge march in solidarity with the people of Iraq took place in Rabat today in response to the appeal by the Istiklal [Independence] Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the National Union of Popular Forces, the Party of Progress and Socialism, and the Organization of Popular Democratic Action.

The march began at about 1030 from Bab al-Hadd Arena after the Fatihah verse [the first verse of the Koran] was read. [video shows the march]

These are pictures of the march that was led by the leaders of political parties which organized it. The flags of Morocco, Palestine, and Iraq, and photographs of the Palestinian and Iraqi presidents, were carried. The march went through Hassan II, Mohamed V, and Moulay Yusuf Streets toward Bab al-Ruwwah.

The participants carried banners with slogans which condemned the war and expressed support for the Iraqi people. The demonstrators expressed their condemnation of this destructive war and affirmed their complete solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people in the predicament facing them. They also hailed the national unity embodied in this march and criticized the positions of the leaders of the Western alliance. The participants in this march, which was meticulously organized and flanked by its organizers, condemned the economic blockade which aims at starving the Iraqi people. They called for lifting the blockade to allow Iraq to receive food and medical aid.

A number of children, riding on their fathers' shoulders, held banners condemning the destruction of a children's milk factory in Iraq, which was aimed at starving Iraqi children. The participants in this march, in which various social sectors of various ages participated, shouted slogans in favor of the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people, calling upon Iraq to destroy Tel Aviv and liberate Palestine, and calling upon the Americans to withdraw from Arab territories. Slogans called upon the United States to put an end to the war; banners, written in Arabic, French, English, and Spanish called for peace and not war. The banners expressed the necessity of establishing a permanent peace in the Middle East and appealed to all peace-loving peoples to work to stop the aggression on Iraq. The participants hailed the victory achieved by

Iraq over Israel through the al-Husayn and al-Abbas, which regained the Arabs's honor.

In an atmosphere of organization and discipline, the march dispersed in Bab al-Ruwwah Arena at about 1530 this afternoon, after the Fatihah verse was read. The print and broadcast media, national and international, covered this event. [passage omitted]

Demonstration Numbers 300,000

LD0302164391 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Some 300,000 Moroccans are marching in the streets of Rabat to show their support for Iraq at the call of the opposition parties and the Muslim fundamentalists. It is the first demonstration officially authorized in Morocco since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, and the biggest one authorized since the country's independence in 1956.

Protesters Demand Recall of Troops

LD0302155291 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Madrid, 3 Feb (IRNA)—Hundreds of thousands of Moroccan Muslims held demonstrations in Rabat today in protest to the Persian Gulf war, and set afire the U.S. and British flags, terming U.S. President George Bush "a criminal."

Spanish Radio reported that the demonstrators expressed sympathy with the Iraqi people, and strongly denounced the countries aligned with Washington in the war against Iraq.

The huge rally also branded as "criminals" French President Francois Mitterrand and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The Moroccan Muslims called for the immediate end to the Persian Gulf war, and a halt to the attacks of the U.S.-led forces on Iraqi residential areas.

The demonstrators who gathered in Rabat at the invitation of the religious and political groups amid tight security measures, also called on the Rabat government to recall the 2,000 Moroccan soldiers sent to Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The massive gathering ignored King Hassan's threats to punish anyone calling for the recall of Moroccan troops from Saudi Arabia.

In a televised speech last Friday, Hassan said Moroccan soldiers will not take part in the attacks against Iraq, but that they would only defend Saudi Arabia.

He did not specify against whom the Moroccan troops will defend Saudi Arabia.

It should be recalled that American troops reportedly gunned down several Moroccan troops when they refused to join battle against the Iraqi forces in al-Khafji last week.

Foreign Leaders Called Criminals

LD0302154291 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpts] An impressive demonstration is being held in Morocco, called for by the opposition political parties. According to initial estimates at least 150,000 people began marching through the main streets of Rabat to show their solidarity with Iraq. We have details for you from Claude Cyrille:

[Cyrille] The watchword had been launched by five organizations: Istiqlal, the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces], the UNFP [National Union of Popular Forces], the Party of Progress and Socialism, in other words the Communist Party, and finally the extreme left-wing of the OADP [Organization of Democratic and Popular Action]. According to initial estimates the demonstration appears to be an impressive one. Posters of Saddam Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat are being carried by the crowd. British, Israeli, and American flags have been burned. It is the stewards of the organizers who are channelling this crowd, the police being stationed in adjacent streets. Among the slogans shouted by the demonstrators are: Glory and victory to the revolution of the stone; and Union from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The French and American presidents and the Spanish prime minister are dubbed criminals. The crowd is also demanding the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf, and above all, the withdrawal of the Moroccan contingent from Saudi Arabia, a withdrawal which, we recall, the Moroccan sovereign had rejected in his televized speech on Friday evening. [passage omitted] The procession is due to disperse after a delegation has handed over a petition to the United Nations office in Rabat.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on 'Famine' Relief, Gulf War

EA0202122091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Khartoum 1 Feb (SUNA)—Sudan has declared it rejects any form of relief that would be presented under the pretext that the Sudan was facing a famine. General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council chairman, Thursday [31 January], said international relief organisations have been exerting pressure on Sudan to declare the area a famine-hit zone.

"The aim of these organizations was not a humanitarian one but rather aiming to insult and make Sudan kneel," Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said in his address before the leaders of the public service in the national capital Thursday. Gen. al-Bashir said raising productivity was the only means for the development and progress of the country. Gen. al-Bashir said the revolution has [word indistinct] instill the Sudanese and Islamic values in the Sudanese society.

On the other hand, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir has confirmed that the allied forces have not come to the Gulf to liberate Kuwait nor to defend Saudi Arabia, but rather to strike at the Arab and Islamic might in the region. Gen. al-Bashir said the war being waged against Iraq was not because of the so-called violation of the resolutions of the United Nations, but rather that these Western states led by the American Government have been violating the resolutions of the United Nations. He said the American Government had earlier invaded Panama and led its leader to the United States for trial without the consent of the United Nations.

Khalifah Addresses Forces in Juba on Shari'ah

EA0202173491 Khartoum SUNA in French 1645 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Feb (SUNA)—Today Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and head of the Peace Department and of External Affairs, asserted that the application of Shari'ah, the Islamic law, in the northern part of the country does not mean the domination of one culture over the other, stressing that the application of the Islamic law is in the interests of all Sudanese. Col. Khalifah, who was addressing officers, NCO's, and troops of the regular forces in Juba, the capital of the Equatoria Province of southern Sudan, stressed that in the Islamic state, all citizens, whether Muslims, Christians, or animist, are equal and have the same rights and duties.

Col. Khalifah went on to say that the government had at many times launched appeals to restore peace in the south, stressing that the rebel movement has not responded to the appeals. He futhermore explained the recommendations adopted by the national conferences organized by the revolution in many spheres. He also talked about implementing a federal system in the country. During his meeting with the People's Defense Forces in Juba, Col. Khalifah indicated that the People's Defense Forces, which are entrenched with the Armed Forces, would be treated the same as the Armed Forces.

Col. Khalifah donated 100,000 Sudanese pounds to the police force, prison, and wildlife guards, and gave another donation of 50,000 pounds to the People's Defense Forces in Juba.

Explains Three Phases of Peace Plan

AB0202204791 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 1 Feb 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, a member of Sudan's military council in charge of peace efforts and foreign affairs, is in Juba in southern Sudan trying to put across the military government's plans for peace in the region. They have not gotten very far since General al-Bashir seized power in June 1989. SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels have continued the war and the revival of Shari'ah law won't have reassured the rebels about the government's plans. But Col. Khalifah has been spelling them out and giving a resume of the war situation. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] Col. Khalifah said that the war was costing Sudan $1 million a day. He added that 259,000 Sudanese had died since the war began in 1983 and a further 3 million Sudanese had been disabled from war-inflicted injuries.

Speaking to a group of soldiers while on a two-day visit to Juba, Col. Khalifah said that the first phase of the peace plan to end the war involved the devolution of some government powers in Khartoum to the states that would soon be created in Sudan; also as part of the first phase, dialogue would be restarted with the rebel SPLA. He said that the key components of the second phase were reconstruction, rehabilitation, and the redistribution of what he termed collective power in the country. The third phase of the peace process will be the signing of the peace agreement with the SPLA.

Col. Khalifah said that ever since his government took over, they made strenuous efforts to find peace. He claimed that they had declared a unilateral cease-fire at the time and began peace talks straightaway with the SPLA in Addis Ababa and Nairobi. The government had also granted amnesty to all who had taken up arms against the government. [end recording]

SPLA Assails, Dismisses Plan

EA0202205091 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA, [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], in a message to Radio SPLA, has dismissed the so-called peace plan of the junta as unrealistic and unworkable, and can only mean more suffering for the already beleaguered Sudanese people.

The spokesman said the junta's peace plan puts peace as last, out of three parts, and puts what they called devolution of power as their number one. This is the complete opposite of what the Sudanese people want. The Sudanese people want peace first and everything else next, after the peace. It is peace that should have been number one in the junta's peace plan, but as it is, peace is last in the junta's program, as announced over the BBC Focus on Africa 1 February 1991.

Quoting the BBC announcement, the junta's peace program consists of three phases as follows: Phase one is the devolution of some government powers in Khartoum to the state that would be soon formed by the junta. Phase two consists of three key components of reconstruction, rehabilitation, and redistribution of what the junta calls collective power in the country. The last phase, phase three, is signing a peace agreement with the SPLA.

Except to [word indistinct] this junta's plan is very seriously (?flawed), for how do you engage in reconstruction and rehabilitation in phase two before you achieve peace in phase three? Or what do you discuss this devolution of power within phase one before you achieve peace in the junta's phase three? [sentence as heard] It is clear from answers to these questions that what Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah [Revolution Command Council member] presented to the citizens of Juba is not a peace plan but rather a war plan.

When this National Islamic Front plan is decoded, it simply says that they will achieve peace when the SPLA, as they think, is defeated. For what will the junta be doing between now, phase zero, and their phase three except the fighting? And since this is what the junta wants, it will get [it] from the SPLA in no small measure. That is why we say that the junta's plan can only mean more suffering for the Sudanese people since in essence it is a war plan, not a peace plan.

The spokesman concluded by appealing to the Sudanese people and army to discuss this so-called peace plan of the junta, to expose it for what it really is—a sinister war plan put in the uniform of peace and to condemn and oppose it, and instead, for the people and the army to fight for real peace by calling for the immediate convening of the national constitutional conference in which all political forces, including the SPLA and the Sudanese Army will participate.

Equatoria Governor on Effects of Gulf War

EA0202162091 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Major General Allison Manani Magaya, governor of Equatoria Region, has denied that the Gulf war has affected military operations in the south against the rebel forces. He said that the only effect of the Gulf war had been the cessation of relief shipments from Nairobi which were resumed after the central government contacted the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. His excellency the Equatoria Region governor further said that the revolution had eased the citizens' burdens and focused on facilitating the flow of commodities through air shipments. He said that the revolution was serious in its aim to achieve peace and to implement the federal system, which he described as a system which conformed with Sudanese reality.

Maj. Gen. Allison Manani said that Juba University would return to its position in Juba next year after restoring security in the area. His excellency revealed that there had been a great response from residents to join the ranks of the popular defense militias, particularly from those who had been afflicted by the rebel movement. He said that the popular defense militias in the south worked hand in hand with the Armed Forces in all military operations.

Kuwait

Amir Sends Messages to Iran, Egypt Presidents

LD0302101291 London KUNA in Arabic 0938 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 3 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs and envoy of the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, left for Tehran today carrying a written message from His Highness the amir to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

It has been officially mentioned that the message concerns "the latest developments of the situation in the Gulf". The amir's evnoy will also convey a written message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and messages to a number of leaders of friendly countries.

UN Envoy Says Iran To Impound Iraqi Planes

PM0102162691 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 30 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait Receives Iranian Assurances That Defecting Iraqi Aircraft Will Not Take Part in Battles"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpt] Kuwait has announced that it has received assurances from Iran that it will not permit the Iraqi aircraft which have landed on its territory to be used against the allied forces, and that it will impound these aircraft until the end of the war. This came in a statement by Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan, our permanent representative to the United Nations, following his meeting the night before last with the chairman of the UN Security Council.

Abu-al-Hasan expressed his satisfaction with this positive Iranian stance and referred to Kuwait's good relations with Iran. Abu-al-Hasan said that Kuwait has no doubt whatsoever about Iran's assurances and neutrality in the war. Western sources have confirmed that 100 Iraqi planes have so far defected to Iran.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Ali Hadi Najafabadi, Iran's ambassador to Abu Dhabi, has explained that the Iraqi military aircraft's defection to Iran was a forced landing without the prior knowledge of the Iranian authorities, and that these aircraft are permitted to land for humane reasons only. In a statement after his meeting with Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates' minister of state for foreign affairs, the Iranian ambassador affirmed that Iran will not permit these aircraft to be used for military purposes and that the Iranian authorities will impound them until the end of the war currently raging in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Government Praises Defense of Al-Khafji

LD0302145791 London KUNA in Arabic 1341 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Al-Ta'if 3 Feb KUNA—Kuwait today lauded the "extreme bravery" of the Saudi, Qatari and other forces which were able to extinguish the Iraqi infiltration attempt against the Saudi town of al-Khafji.

This came in a statement made by Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of state for National Assembly Affairs, Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, after a Kuwaiti cabinet meeting.

Dr. al-Ya'qub said that the cabinet "in its session which was held on Sunday 3 February was informed about the details of the criminal Iraqi aggression against al-Khafji, and followed with pride the extreme bravery which distinguished the victorious Saudi forces, together with the brave Qatari forces and the other fraternal and friendly forces, who were able to defeat the aggressor, reverse his machinations and protect the pure Saudi territory from his desecration."

He added: "While praising the distinguished and heroic role of these forces in defeating the aggressor, the Kuwaiti government addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the pure martyrs and prays to God to accommodate them in His heaven and to grant their families patience and strength: Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they are alive, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord—God has spoken the truth."

Envoy to Vienna Says Iraqi Soldiers Begging

AU0202174291 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 2-3 Feb 91 p 4

["G.B." report: "'Soldiers Are Begging for Food'; Kuwaiti Ambassador has 'New Reports'"]

[Text] Vienna—"The Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait no longer have enough to eat. Therefore, they go begging to the Kuwaitis or they take by force of arms what they need." This was stated by 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abdallah al-Awadi, Kuwait ambassador to Vienna, in an interview for DIE PRESSE. The ambassador referred to "latest reports" from Kuwait. The soldiers' morale is very low. "Now they take away everything they find because they know that they will soon have to clear off."

Hospital treatment is denied to the Kuwaiti civilian population because the hospitals were requisitioned by the Iraqi Army and are fully occupied by soldiers, he said. According to the ambassador, the Iraqis have become more nervous and aggressive since the beginning of the war. The Kuwaitis no longer are permitted to move freely. On 18 January, a demonstration of joy celebrating the beginning of the war was bloodily crushed: Five civilians were shot, and numerous people were injured, he said.

At any rate, optimism has now broken out among the Kuwaitis: On Thursday [31 January] the embassy began to issue visas for the freed Kuwait. Kuwait is a symbol for the world's concerted action against aggression. "Therefore, Kuwait no longer belongs to us, but to the world." The latter is to see "Saddam's vile deeds." An incidental detail: DIE PRESSE has also applied for a visa.

Qatar

Amir Receives Bush Phone Call; Praises U.S.

NC0302060991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 2 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, tonight received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has reported that during the telephone conversation, current Gulf developments were reviewed in light of Iraq's continued occupation of Kuwait. The agency added that the U.S. President lauded the distinguished and effective role being played by the Qatari Armed Forces in cooperation with the multinational forces which seek to liberate Kuwait.

For his part, the Qatari amir expressed his heartfelt thanks and great appreciation for the U.S. President's firm and principled stand on the Gulf crisis and also for the constructive role being played by the United States in unison with the UN members in defense of right, justice, and international law.

The Qatari amir also stressed Qatar's commitment to all UN Security Council resolutions regarding the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah to the U.S. President.

UK's Mellor Stresses British Commitment

NC0302193391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 3 Feb (WAKH)—British Chief Secretary of the Treasury David Mellor arrived in Doha this evening on a three-day visit to Qatar for talks with senior Qatari officials on ways to strengthen bilateral relations, particularly in the financial and economic fields.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY quoted Millor as saying that he will convey to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, Britain's total commitment to making the necessary effort to ensure the defeat of the Iraqi regime, to liberate Kuwait, and to prevent any regional expansion. He praised the heroic performance of Qatari soldiers in combat. Emphasizing the depth of relations between Qatar and Britain, Mellor said that Britain will support its friends at all times, particularly in times of crisis.

Omani Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0402092391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 4 Feb (WAKH)—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah arrived in Doha this morning for a brief visit to Qatar.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir and Omani Ambassador in Qatar Sa'id Bin-'Ali Salim al-Kalbani received him upon arrival.

Delivers Sultan Message

NC0402093391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 4 Feb (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman dealing with the continuous consultation between the two countries, developments in the Gulf arena, and the (?firm) ties between the two fraternal countries.

The message was conveyed by Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, who was received by the Qatari amir in Doha this morning.

Also present at the meeting were Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, and Omani Ambassador in Qatar Sa'id Bin-'Ali al-Kalbani.

Struggle Front Urges Striking Foreign Interests

NC0302011891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The National Struggle Front in Qatar issued a statement today calling on the Arab masses to put pressure on Arab governments to declare holy jihad and fight alongside the Iraqi people against the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression. Following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war. In truth speaketh the Almighty. [Koranic verse]

O masses of our struggling people; O honorable strugglers; O Arab nationalists; Some time has passed since the outset of the treacherous aggression against fraternal Iraq, which was planned by the U.S. Administration, Zionism, and their traitor Arab agents. The goal of that aggression has been to destroy Iraq, weaken its nationalist willpower and unity, control oil sources in Arab countries, safeguard the security of the Zionist entity, and tighten the grip of U.S. hegemony over the world.

Such an aggression would never have occurred had it not been for the collaboration of traitor Fahd, America's first agent, and the involvement of his partners, the oil shaykhs and princes, in the conspiracy. It was Fahd who invited the American-Atlantic forces to occupy the lands of the Arab Peninsula, the home of the honorable Ka'bah and the shrine of Arab Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be on him. He [Fahd] made the land of sanctities a base from which the Americans, the Zionists, and their Western and reactionary Arab agents are launching aggression against struggling Iraq, which is armed with the patience of the faithful and the strong.

O our struggling masses; the National Struggle Front in Qatar is standing firmly and strongly beside fraternal Iraq in the battle of honor and dignity. It calls on you to stand up to aggression firmly, and to mass all available energies and resourses against the interests of the occupiers, wherever they may be, in a manner that harms the interests of America and its allies and causes painful damage to their institutions and missions. It is time for the noble sacrifice and for the manly, courageous, and sacrificial stand which reflects jealousy for the homeland and religion.

We call upon our brothers in the Armed Forces to disobey the orders of the agent regime which instruct them to fight their brothers in Arabism and Islam, the faithful Iraqi soldiers who are patiently fighting and struggling. We call on them to aim their rifles at the chests of the aggressor Americans and Atlanticists, and to direct their fire at the corrupt band of the Sa'ud family and the [word indistinct] princes and shaykhs who are allied with them.

We invite the sons of our people who work in the laboratoris, factories, and institutions that serve the aggressors to respond to the call of the struggling vanguards to stage work stoppages and strike at and paralyze foreign institutions.

The National Struggle Front in Qatar calls on the good and faithful nationalist powers in all Arab countries to unite their ranks vis-a-vis the aggression against the Arab [word indistinct], primarily Iraq, with all the necessary ways and means to help stimulate the great energies of our Arab people, put pressure on Arab governments, and to declare holy jihad. The front also calls on these powers to volunteer to fight at the battlefronts.

Honor to our innocent martyrs; honor to the martyrs of glorious and victorious Iraq; honor to the martyrs of the beloved Arab nation and the [word indistinct] of Iraq, the Arab nation, and [word indistinct]. God is great.

[Signed] The National Struggle Front in Qatar, [words indistinct] February 1991.

King Fahd, Bush Discuss Gulf Crisis by Phone

LD0202222391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2205 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Feb (SPA)—A telephone conversation was held on 2 February between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency George Bush, the U.S. President. SPA has learned that the conversation dealt with the development of the situation at the Arab and international levels by examining the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region and the field of operation aimed at liberating Kuwait. In this context, the beloved King pointed out to His Excellency the American President that matters are heading, with Allah's help and will, in the right direction.

Crown Prince Receives Call From Bahrain Prince

LD0302124891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh 3 February 91. (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received last night a telephone call from His Highness Hamad Bin-Isa Al Khalifah, crown prince of the fraternal state of Bahrain.

SPA has learned that the conversation was an opportunity to get acquainted with the development of the situation in the Arabian Gulf region and the latest development in the operations underway to liberate the state of Kuwait in accordance with international resolutions. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Phones Morocco's King Hassan

Solidarity Stressed

LD0202233591 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, tonight had a telephone conversation with His Majesty King Hassan II, the monarch of the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco. SPA has learned that the conversation was an opportunity to follow up on the current situation in the Arabian Gulf considering the continued operations to liberate Kuwait, in addition to examining the two fraternal countries' relations.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz stressed the continued stability of the situation in the Kingdom, as well as the citizens' cohesion around their leadership to confront to the Iraqi aggressor's attempt to harm the the security and safety of the Kingdom and its citizens. King Hassan II expressed Morocco's solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its people, and the government, praising the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz' efforts to bring peace and stability to the noble Saudi people.

King Hassan II Telephones Fahd

LD0302205191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, was today telephoned by his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

During the conversation views were exchanged about the course of events in the Arab region, and ultimately in the theater of military operations. King Fahd assured his brother, His Majesty King Hassan, that matters are generally proceeding in the right direction.

Government Statement Calls For Peace in Somalia

LD0102203691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today, Friday [1 February] issued the following statement:

The government of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al'-Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, is following with utmost concern the development of the situation in fraternal Somalia and is looking forward with every hope to the establishment of security and stability in this Muslim Arab country which is dear to us.

On the basis of the ties of Islamic brotherhood, in line with the teachings of the tolerant faith, and out of the belief of the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques in the one history and common destiny of the sons of the Arab and Islamic homeland, the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, with every loyalty, calls on the brother Somalis to close ranks and discard differences in order to establish a unified and stable Somalia; build a future that will guarantee the Muslim Arab people of Somalia freedom, dignity, and honor and enable it to regain its vitality to contribute toward building the Arab homeland; and play its historic role in supporting Islamic solidarity. The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, in sensing its Islamic and historic responsibilities, has not and will not spare efforts to contribute or support the fraternal Somali people to guarantee it security and stability.

Further Reportage on Allied Actions in Gulf War

Communique No. 15 on Al-Khafji

LD0102212991 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Military Communique No. 15 issued by the command of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations on 1 February; place not given]

[Text] Military Communique No. 15 has been issued by the command of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations for the 16th day of Operation Desert Storm, 17 Rajab 1411, corresponding to 1 February 1991.

At the beginning of this communique, the command of the joint forces would like to give more details about the operation of cleansing al-Khafji, in addition to that provided in Communique No. 14 issued on Thursday, 31 January 1991.

At approximately 0230 on Thursday [2330 GMT 30 January], a force consisting of elements of the Saudi land forces, National Guard and Marines, and Qatari land forces, supported by helicopters from the U.S. Marines, encircled the aggressor's force which had infiltrated al-Khafji. The size of their force is estimated to be a brigade. This force was isolated from the north. Its lines of supply were cut, then a counterattack was carried out from the southern direction, which led to the cleansing of the township at approximately 1400 [1100 GMT 31 January].

The aggressor's losses were 30 dead, 400 taken prisoner, and 33 injured. Approximately one tank battalion and one infantry battalion were captured.

Our losses were 15 martyrs, including one with the rank of second lieutenant; 32 injured; four missing; three tanks damaged, two of which are reparable and able to be returned to the battlefield; two ambulances; and one rocket launcher.

Yesterday [31 January] our Air Force, with the participation of the Kuwaiti Air Force, was able to isolate the aggressor's forces which tried to reinforce the forces that had reached al-Khafji. This was done by bombing them using F-5 and Tornado ground attack aircraft. A collection of mechanized and armored vehicles were destroyed; some others withdrew. The losses of the aggressor have not yet been determined.

The joint forces are still bombing the enemy's position and monitoring his moves by covering the airspace of our borders with patrols.

The number of sorties has exceeded 34,000, of which our air force has conducted more than 2,200.

Last night, nine persons, together with a tank, from the aggressor's forces surrendered to our forces in the theater of operations.

The joint navies yesterday evening attacked an aggressor's vessel in the north of the Arabian Gulf and set it on fire. The U.S. Navy captured 15 of the aggressor's military personnel in Khur al-'Amaya, which is 55 miles to the east of Faylakah Island. It is thought that they are some of those rescued from some of the ships that were sunk in the past few days.

The American forces lost an EC-130 aircraft yesterday in the morning south of Kuwait. Its 14 military personnel crew are still missing.

Commander Gives Al-Khafji Statement

LD0102195791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Statement by Staff Lt.-Gen. Khalid Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the Joint Forces and the Theater of Operations; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Right has come and wrong has been defeated; wrong is defeated. [Koranic verse] On the night of Thursday 31 January 1991, the aggressor, under cover of darkness, managed to infiltrate to al-Khafji, the evacuated border town, with a force estimated at one brigade plus, in small groups. Immediately the Joint Forces, with God's assistance, managed to encircle the aggressors and cut off the supply lines and reinforcements which the Iraqi regime moved forward in a desperate attempt to keep al-Khafji. This operation cannot be considered as anything other than a propaganda operation from the military point of view.

Al-Khafji has been searched house by house. It has been totally cleansed. In a quick operation the oppressing groups were finished. The operation could have been carried out in less time, but the main aim was to restrict losses in our forces. So far more than 400 Iraqi officers and men have been taken prisoner; their dead numbered about 30, while the number of wounded is 33. The number of wounded in our forces is 32, and the number of martyrs in our valiant forces is 15, including a lieutenant. The number of missing is four—three from the Border Guard and one from the National Guard. The number of mechanized units in our forces which have been hit is three tanks—two can be repaired; two ambulances and one rocket launcher were destroyed. We have captured from the aggressor the equipment of one battalion plus; that is to say, more than 100 serviceable vehicles. We will give precise information when we complete our number-one mission—the cleansing of al-Khafji and securing of the fortified points there.

I would like at this moment to praise the manner in which the work was carried out. Immediately to the south of al-Khafji, the enemy was cut off and encircled with forces from the National Guard, the forces of the fraternal state of Qatar, and the Saudi Marines. At the same time, and according to the plan prepared for the purpose, supplies and reinforcements were cut off and the enemy was encircled from the west with elements from the Royal Saudi Land Forces. With this action, and from that moment, the area was regarded as encircled. Two hours later, entry into al-Khafji was made and al-Khafji was searched; Iraqis, the number of which I mentioned earlier, were taken prisoner by the forces of the National Guard and the forces of fraternal Qatar and the Saudi Navy [Marines].

At this moment I would like to praise what has been done by all. I would like to add that in the course of this operation there are greater losses in the Kuwaiti Theater of Operations. As a result of the glorious action by the joint air forces, to the north of al-Khafji no less than 90 percent of a division-strong force has been destroyed. As for the north, three brigades have been destroyed—two mechanized and one armored—but the exact number of dead and destroyed equipment cannot be confirmed, because this needs some aerial reconnaissance and some other confirmations, which are difficult to carry out. But I reaffirm that al-Khafji is now secure, as the guard-points are strong. This battle is regarded as being the hardest battle fought by the aggressor, in which he sustained losses which are large in military terms. God grant us success. Thank you.

Communique No. 16 Issued

LD0302032291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0100 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Military Commmunique No. 16 issued by the Command of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations on 2 February in Riyadh]

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Feb (SPA)—In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. "Help from God and speedy victory."

Military Communique No. 16 issued by the Command of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations for the 17th day of Operation Desert Storm:

The commander of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations, His Royal Highness Staff Lt.Gen. Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, pointed out in his press briefing yesterday concerning the results of the al-Khafji battle that the number of killed, wounded, and prisoners from the enemy forces and of the martyrs, wounded, and missing from our forces were only preliminary.

The Command of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations has today obtained the following information:

Losses of the aggressor	Losses of our forces
30 killed	18 martyrs
37 wounded	29 wounded
429 prisoners	4 missing

The Joint Command wishes to affirm that all the combing operations have now ended, and no element of the aggressor forces is now in al-Khafji.

In a desperate attempt to penetrate our northern borders with Kuwait, five tanks yesterday tried to cross into the Kingdom's territory. They were challenged by five tanks of the Qatari land forces, and four of them were destroyed while the fifth managed to flee. The Qatari forces suffered no losses.

Our Air Forces and the Kuwaiti Air Force are continuing their bombing of Republican Guards concentrations, their munition depots, their command and control centers, in addition to some airports and artillary positions—using for the purpose Tornado, FS5, and Skyhawk aircraft.

This brings the number of sorties carried out by our Air Force since the start of Operation Desert Storm to over 2,400 and those carried out by the Kuwaiti Air Force to 224 out of a total of over 37,000 sorties carried out by the Joint Forces.

The aggressor continues to plant mines in the Arabian Gulf. Our naval forces yesterday discovered one such mine and blew it up.

The U.S. naval forces also discovered another mine and blew it up.

During the past 24 hours, the U.S. naval forces destroyed four aggressor boats at various places in the north of the Arabian Gulf, using A6 aircraft and helicopters.

Two AS6 planes belonging to the U.S. forces were shot down today by the ground defense forces of the aggressor.

Communique No. 17 Issued

LD0302201991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Military Communique No. 17 issued by the Command of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations in Riyadh on 3 February, read by spokesman Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Joint Forces and Operations Theater Command has issued Military Communique No. 17. The communique was read out by Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an, spokesman for the Joint Forces and Operations Theater. Afterwards he answered questions from journalists.

[Begin Al-Rubay'an recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted including Koranic verse] Military Communique No. 17 issued by the Joint Forces and Operations Theater Command on the 18th day of the Operation Desert Storm, 19 Rajab 1411, corresponding to 3 February 1991.

The front was relatively calm during the past 24 hours, except for a limited exchange of light weapons fire and sporadic artillery fire. A small group of the aggressor's forces tried to infiltrate our northern border. It was engaged by the joint forces and destroyed a bulldozer and a vehicle. The aggressor force fled. The number of sorties carried out by the joint forces since the beginning of the Operation Desert Storm is more than 41,000, out of which our air force carried out more than 2,600 sorties.

At exactly 0050 last night the aggressor fired a Scud missile on the city of Riyadh. It was intercepted and part of it was destroyed. The other part fell near a residential area in one of the suburbs of the city of Riyadh. This resulted in the destruction of parts of two houses and caused light injuries to 29 people whose nationalities were as follows: 14 Saudis, six Jordanians, four Syrians, three Yemenis, one Kuwaiti, and one Pakistani. These figures include some children and women. All left the hospital after receiving the necessary treatment.

The U.S. Navy during the past 24 hours has discovered two mines and detonated them. At a late hour last night to the east of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia a helicopter, a Cobra, of the U.S. Naval forces crashed following a mechanical malfunction. Its two-man crew died. [end recording]

Spokesman on Al-Khafji, Prisoners

LD0302033791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0200 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Feb (SPA)—The spokesman of the Joint Forces Command and Theater of Operations, Staff Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an, has stated that the consequences [athar] caused to al-Khafji as a result of the infiltration of some Iraqi elements and the purging of the Iraqi aggressor were very limited.

He was replying to questions by journalists during the news conference he held in Riyadh tonight. He added that he had visited al-Khafji the day before yesterday and saw no consequences worth mentioning there.

Asked if there were direct clashes with the Iraqi aggressor near the borders, Staff Col. al-Rubay'an said that nothing happened other than the advance of the five tanks mentioned yesterday.

He added, "Some armored groups tried to advance, but were tackled by the Joint Air Forces, which stopped them and forced them to retreat to the north."

Asked about the significance of the movements carried out by the land forces of the Iraqi aggressor, the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations spokesman said that any land force that moves without air cover exposes itself to greater danger than if it had remained in the trenches.

He added: "The Joint Forces wish that such movements take place, as happened the previous day, when the land forces of the aggressor suffered great losses."

Asked whether the aggressor had used chemical materials, he said the Joint Forces had no reports about the use by the aggressor of chemical materials, particularly at al-Khafji.

Asked if there were Scud launching platforms in Jordan, the spokesman said: "I cannot confirm or deny the reports carried in this regard by news agencies." He affirmed in this respect that the Joint Forces deal only with the military events inside the operations' theater.

Asked why the operations relatively have begun to move to the desert, he said that this meant the aggressor was trying to pull the Joint Forces into a land war or to influence their plans.

Asked about the conditions the Iraqi prisoners had been suffering before they were taken prisoner, he said: "They suffered from hunger because they used to have only one meal per day, and consequently they were discontent."

Asked if these living conditions were the reason that prompted the Iraqi prisoners to surrender, Staff Col. al-Rubay'an said: "This is a battle, and nobody surrenders for the sake of securing better living conditions." He added: "We daily urge them to cross the borders and surrender."

Asked about the way the prisoners are treated in both countries, Staff Col. al-Rubay'an replied by asking the questioner to compare the conditions of prisoners from the pictures shown by Saudi television and Iraqi television.

Discusses Iraqi Gas Masks

LD0302204791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Question and answer session with Colonel Ahmad al-Rubay'an, spokesman for the Joint Forces and Operations Theater Command by unidentified journalists in Riyadh on 3 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Rubay'an] Before starting questions please let me answer a question from yesterday with regard to whether the aggressor prisoners had gas masks. It was found that 304 prisoners had gas masks and 125 had no masks. [passage omitted]

[Journalist] With regard to the prisoners who were arrested and on whom were found masks, is it thought they were able to use chemical weapons they had in their [words indistinct] or were they expecting to be confronted with chemical defences?

[Al-Rubay'an] It is not possible to think [word indistinct] In modern wars, however, gas mask is considered part of the military equipment. [passage omitted]

No Qatari Casualties Reported

NC0202153591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1047 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 2 Feb (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Qatari Armed Forces General Command has announced that the total losses of the Qatari force following the liberation of al-Khafji from the aggressive Iraqi forces by Qatari forces, fraternal Saudi forces, and U.S. Marine forces are as follows:

Personnel: None.

Equipment: Two tanks and one armed personnel carrier damaged.

In a statement broadcast over Radio Qatar today, the source said that the Qatari force ably and bravely participated in the liberation of al-Khafji and that all personnel of the Qatari force are well and unharmed.

Qatari Planes Continue Attack

NC0302110991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 3 Feb (WAKH)—A military spokesman for the Qatari Armed Forces has said that the Amiri Qatari Air Force today continued its combat sorties against the designated targets inside occupied Kuwait.

In a statement carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the spokesman said all aircraft returned to base safely.

Missile Debris Injures Children

LD0302141291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh 3 Feb SPA—A responsible source at the Ministry of the Interior gave a statement to SPA in which he said: With reference to the statement issued last night about the results of the blowing up of the missile fired at Riyadh after midnight by the Iraqi aggressor and the injuries resulting from the fall of the debris on a populated quarter, the Ministry of the Interior would like to point out the following in order to complement that statement:

First: Among the 29 persons injured, there were four Jordanian children aged between two and 10. Their injuries varied between superficial hand and foot injuries and lacerations in the back;

Second: The injured also included three Saudi children between the ages of five and 11. Their injuries varied between head injuries, lacerations in the back and forehead injuries;

Third: After transporting the injured to hospital it was discovered that they included a 28 year-old Jordanian woman who had suffered a nervous breakdown.

The Ministry of the Interior reiterates that all the 29 injured persons have left hospital in good health—praise be to God—after treatment.

Baghdad Says Qataris Killed

NC0302084591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] has learned that the bodies of large number of victims of the Qatari regime who were killed in recent battles in the Gulf region have been taken to Doha. INA also learned that transfer of the bodies to the Qatari capital by plane is continuing, and that an atmosphere of frustration and failure prevails among official circles in Qatar.

Alleges 'Rebellion' Among Troops

NC3101183291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1725 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] The American invasion forces stationed in the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] have opened fire at the Moroccan forces deployed there. Many Moroccan soldiers were killed or wounded in the shooting, and some of their equipment and weapons were destroyed.

It is worth mentioning that a large number of Moroccan Armed Forces troops stationed in the lands of Najd and Hejaz had said they refused to participate in the military operations against Iraq. This is thought to be the main reason the American forces opened fire on them.

Press and radio reports have added that a rebellion broke out among the armies of the Arab countries, which are agents of the United States, and that clashes took place between the American forces and those troops. The United

States and its allies, however, are imposing tight restrictions on these news reports and try to conceal the related facts. Also, spokesmen for the aggression forces deny these reports out of fear of how the masses will react when the sons of our Arab people learn of these events.

Editorials, Commentary Stress Anti-Iraq Stance

Saddam Cannot 'Hide;' End Near

LD0102225391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 31 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Jan (SPA)—Saudi press continues its focus on the conditions in the Arab Gulf region ensuing from the flagrant Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

AL-BILAD says in its editorial entitled "The Approaching End of the Tyrant":

"There is nothing that the tyrant can hide in the face of the successive events and in the midst of the international force sanctioned by the UN Security Council to liberate Kuwait. As much as Iraq's tyrant embarks upon action to hide the Iraqi Army and its machinery in underground bunkers, he thus buries the Iraqi people alive and destroys its elements and property in broad daylight."

The editorial continues: "From here it is incumbent on the Iraqi people to stand up to the tyrant of Baghdad. When the attempts by the sons of the Tigris and the Euphrates were set afoot to kill the tyrant and turn against him, he rushed to his bunker underground. We reaffirm that the attempt will be concentrated and successful, however, because the world believes that the people of Iraq will not be able to accept more tragedies which the president of the Iraqi regime brings to an Arab people who wish for a dignified life away from the calamities of war and destruction."

It adds: "If the president of the Iraqi regime stands isolated from the world today, the Iraqis have realized that they need to regain their dignity by killing and getting rid of him so that they can lead a sound life, like the other peoples who look forward to a secure life, especially because the tyrant of Baghdad has begun to fabricate lies for his people's consumption time and time again, in an attempt to boost the morale of his army, whose elements are being decimated by hunger and into whose parts fear from his henchmen is seeping. All his attempts, however, are nonsense and sheer lies before God and His believing servants. The truth is that the regime of injustice in Baghdad will remain the sole loser forever and ever."

Saddam's Calculations 'Failed'

LD0202095591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 31 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] As for UKAZ, it says in its editorial headlined "The Tyrant is Hastening his End":

It has become plain that Saddam Husayn has based all his calculations regarding military operations on false premises. At the top of those calculations is one about extending the period of military operations. He believes that by sacrificing the Iraqi people's capabilities, and by enduring heavy losses for as long as possible, he can extend that period. His bet in this respect presupposes that the world would not accept a war lasting more than a few days to liberate Kuwait. In his attempt to extend the period of military operations, Saddam relies on other means to geographically broaden the scope of fire and military operations, for the sake of creating some sort of panic in the world, to make it try to stop those operations within the shortest time and with all means possible. He also miscalculated regarding the response to the loathsome terrorist operations—he thought the world would be forced to cease military operations under that kind of blackmail.

The paper says that all Saddam's calculations have failed after two weeks of military operations, and that the world has become more positive, demanding their continuation until every inch of Kuwaiti soil has been liberated.

UZAK indicates that after the failure of all these calculations—after the tyrant and his Army went moaning under the successive blows dealt to them by the forces for the liberation of Kuwait, and after Saddam became certain that every passing day means the horrific destruction of his forces and the weakening of his subjugated Army, with which he had threatened and menaced—Saddam himself rushed to seek the land battle, which he mistakenly thinks might rescue or at least give him a chance to increase the human cost of the liberation of Kuwait. This he will not achieve, God willing.

The paper will go according to the plans and decisions laid down by the allied forces, which have the necessary supremacy to dictate to Saddam Husayn the plan of military operations and their timing, extent, and method—and which take into consideration, in determining all that, a number of important and essential factors liable to achieve one goal: namely the liberation of Kuwait, with minimal bloodshed and loss of human life.

Iraqis Urged To Topple Saddam

LD0302073791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0300 GMT 3 Feb 91

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 3 Feb (SPA)—AL-BILAD [THE COUNTRY] writes that he who contemplates Saddam's pushing of Iraqi forces toward al-Khafji will readily realize the extent of this man's disregard for his forces, who are first and foremost sons of his people. [passage omitted]

The paper calls on the Iraqi people to think—at least for a short while—about their future and about having a life of peace, security, building, and reconstruction.

It urges the Iraqi people to avenge their sons, who were killed in hundreds of thousands in the eight-year war, and to also avenge their children, who Saddam has starved and deprived of their right to life when he preferred to build plants for poison gas and chemical weapons—instead of building factories for food, or schools, or hospitals where the thousands who were disabled by Saddam's fascist wars could receive treatment.

The paper calls on the Iraqi people to rush now more than at any time in the past to topple their ruler, who pays no consideration to their interests and capabilities.

Saddam Assailed on Palestine Issue

LD0302085791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0300 GMT 3 Feb 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Medina 3 Feb (SPA)—The newspaper AL-MADINAH asks: Since when does the occupation of an Arab country provide a solution for an Arab problem of a long history of struggle and deep wounds, and since when do chants on the pavements of the Arab street in support of aggression and oppression constitute a way for the liberation of Jerusalem?

The paper affirms that the history of the tyrant of Iraq proves that he never cared about Arab and Islamic matters, and that he is a professional murderer and specialist butcher who killed the sons of Iraq, liquidated the opposition in barrels of acid, destroyed the ulemas [Islamic communities], and left the intelligentsia destitute.

Al-MADINAH asks: Is not Kuwait an Arab and Islamic country which created the idea of the Palestine struggle as an organization on its soil, and are not its people an Arab Muslim people who stood behind all the Arab aspirations and felt all the Arab agonies and the pains of all Arab wounds?

It adds: Where is Saddam's religion, seeing as he has killed the Muslims in the mosques of the Kurds with his mustard gas and has killed the Iranians with his chemical weapons?

The paper points out that what is happening today constitutes an act of retribution and a restoration of international legitimacy, which Haddam [the destroyer] of Iraq has insisted on anulling and replacing with the law of the jungle, pushing the world back into ancient ages.

The paper concludes: What remains is for the defenders of the aggression to realize that Saddam Husayn has put out the candles of the intifadah, has caused Palestinian loss, and has pushed the Arabs centuries back.

Newspapers Continue To Review Gulf War Situation

Radio Reviews Press Editorials

LD0302100291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Feb 91

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Excerpts] Under the headline, the stage that precedes the end, the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH writes: [passage omitted] The paper highlights the anxiousness the commanders of the coalition forces show for sparing the lives of their forces—as well as the lives of the Iraqi forces—from a decisive land war, and affirms that this is the principle factor that governs the thoughts of those commanders in deciding the appropriate time for a land war, if such a war is necessary, for the liberation of Kuwait, particularly as Iraq's air and naval power diminishes day by day. It will not be long before it collapses completely and surrender inevitably follows.

AL-RIYADH newspaper writes: [passage omitted] Saddam Husayn chose war, not because it would bring him land and petroleum and make the world stand before him weak and feeble, but because war would be an event linked to him personally and which he considers the high point of his happiness and pride.

In these quickly changing times, we do not find that the al-Khafji battle was equal on either side in its meaning or its values, if it has such meaning or values, because the basis and source of crisis, starting with the war with Iran and ending with the Umm al-Mahalik [mother of disasters], is Saddam himself. It is not sufficient to try him as a war criminal against man and the environment and award him the medal of death.

The paper adds: What concerns us, from another aspect, is that there are some who speak of Arab efforts to establish peace or, particularly, a cease-fire. The initiatives wavered between those who deal with events such as Saddam being oppressed and aggressed upon and those who want the war to stop so that the talks may begin.

We do not know how these delegations have overlooked all the initiatives that gave Saddam many opportunities at a time when this chorus, which is now seeking to save Saddam from his dilemma, was the one beating the drums of war and speaking of the greatness of its commander and the chances of victory that could not be wrong.

The Arab world has been unjustly afflicted by this type of semi-intelligent people. It suffices to mention in this regard that the shadow of the defeats the Arab nation has suffered has not taught us the basic lesson for combatting the illiteracy of the false leadership.

The authorities of some countries, where the material and moral capabilities are devoted to lauding the course of the leader, and where the poets and journalists are bent on praising the policy of the leader and annulling the rights of the people, so much so that the economic crises in these countries fail to make them appraise the losses suffered by their peoples as a result of the deterioration of their economies and its transformation into flimsy structures which prompt the authorities to ration bread and fuel and lead to the disappearance of several basic commodities from the streets. [sentence as heard] The official stand nevertheless continues to claim that victory is near and that the distribution of the Arab wealths will be conducted through decrees issued by the republican palace in Baghdad and circulated to Saddam's provinces in the east and west of the Arab homeland.

The paper concludes: Ignorance is not the principal problem that the Arabs share together along with their bread and water. It is the crisis of the loss of balance vis-a-vis events and the power of discernment.

SPA Reviews Editorials

LD0202124191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0310 GMT 31 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Jan (SPA)—AL-MADINAH asks today in its editorial entitled "What will you say, O Arabs of the diaspora":

Let us contemplate this pile of ambiguities, this dissipation and immersion in blind sedition which Saddam Husayn has triggered. Let us face the facts with alertness, sincerity, and clarity as we see Saddam insisting on the execution of the Iraqi people by closing prospects in the face of all attempts and mediations, defying legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and strangely insisiting on the destruction of Iraq's installations and wiping out its capabilities.

The paper adds: What logic does the question of Arab existence take when the Iraqi citizen is being subjected to dispersion, death, and destitution, and when there are in the Arab world refugees from Iraq and Kuwait who join the Palestinian refugees? It says: In moments of contemplation, let us Arabs rally to a just word, and ask: what has Iraq done for Algeria's struggle. Let us read the recent and distant history together to see what the Saudis did for the liberation of Algeria, the people of one million martyrs. What did the Saudis do for Tunisia's independence; what did they do for the Sudanese, the Yemeni, and the Palestinian cause. Let us rally to a just word to see what Saddam did when he invaded Kuwait and decided to annex an independent state with arms and invasion. The paper wonders about the position of some Palestinian leaderships, which galloped in the dust of sedition and with Saddam Husayn in knocking the Arab nation down into the swamp of catastrophe.

The paper ends its editorial by saying that the Palestinian intifidah, which was the torch of the sole fedayeen action in the occupied territories, was halted and finished off by those Palestinian leaderships which betrayed the cause and rolled in the earh of the diaspora. They have stopped a heroic action which we had looked after and counted upon.

As to AL-YAWM, it described the liberation of Qaruh as the beginning of the liberation of Kuwait and the beginning of joy for all Arabs and Muslims.

The paper explains in its editorial that the beginning of the liberation of Kuwait showed its first signs, with God's will, when two brave Kuwaiti officers hosted the Kuwaiti flag on the soil of Qaruh Island after having liberated it from the miserable remnants of the aggressive forces, and pointed out that this action constitutes the beginning of the joyous return, not for Kuwaitis alone, but for all Arabs and Muslims.

The paper wonders why the tyrant of Baghdad was, and still is, haughty when he refused, and still refuses, to pull out of Kuwait peacefully. It says that this haughtiness is misplaced and is therefore a pattern of tyrants' behavior, of which history has taught us something.

It emphasizes that citizenship is innate in the souls of humans. Let the world know that citizenship cannot be confiscated by invasion or occupation, that the fate of tyrants is the tragic end, and that goodwill be the lot of their opponents.

AL-JAZIRAH ridicules the baseless lies reiterated by the mercenary and spiteful trumpets, which insist on lies and fabrication in an attempt to discredit the Kingdom by disseminating false, tendentious news and rumors, not caring about the credibility of the world, or about the receiving conscious thought, which cannot be fooled by such lies.

AL-JAZIRAH points to the falsehoods and sophistry propagated by mercenary Jordanian newspaper, to the effect that the Saudi police force opened fire on the shaykh of the Grand Mosque in Riyadh and his brother following last Friday's prayer sermon.

The paper addresses the mercenary and the spiteful, saying: "You have partaken in lies and have fallen into the abyss of moral degradation and corruption of faith. We are not surprised that this came from you, however, as you had previously fallen into the swamp of ultimate lying, deceit, and distortion when you backed the killer of Baghdad in his injustice, aggression, violation of sanctities, and sacrilege against the pacifist and Islamic people of Kuwait".

The paper stresses that those who sold their souls to Iraq's devil and pawned their conscience to him, perhaps for cheap ambitions or false promises, will lose everything, God willing, beside feeling remorse at having strayed from God's rightful path.

SPA Reviews Commentaries

LD0302143891 Riyadh SPA in English 1220 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Riyadh, Feb. 3, SPA—Saudi newspapers today continued to comment on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

'With over two weeks gone in the Gulf war, Saddam Husayn is looking more and more like a spectator than anything else. His Air Force is in tatters, his air defense system has collapsed and many of his nuclear reactors and chemical weapons factories are in rubble. Saddam's response to this allied barrage has been to fire Scuds which have gone helter-skelter in the night, pollute the seas with oil and sally into the Saudi town of al-Khaji in an embarrassingly botched up attempt to capture it.

'What can Saddam gain from remaining in Kuwait is hard to ascertain. He can not sell its oil because of the international embargo. Neither he nor his countrymen can live in it because it is at present being bombed and will soon be liberated and his troops have looted it to the point where there is nothing left to take,' ARAB NEWS said.

While Saddam has mistreated captured soldiers, RIYADH DAILY said the Saudis and others of the multinational coalition have strictly conformed with the Geneva Convention.

All Iraqi Prisoners of War (POWs) are being held in facilities having all basic comforts. The best of food and medicines, being provided to them, shows that Saudi Arabia and its allies have no intention of emulating Saddam Husayn's ways, the English language newspaper said.

'When Saddam learns of the exemplary treatment of his men by the allies, he will be ashamed by his shoddy treatment of his men on the border—all lice-ridden, starving and sick.

The Saudi treatment of Iraqi POWs also conforms to the tenets of Islam that preaches tolerance and love for all human beings.

Moreover, the uproar over Saddam Husayn's brutal treatment of American POWs must make him realize his mistake. Perhaps that may be expecting too much from the Iraqi tyrant whose reign has witnessed endless violence and bloodshed not only in Iraq but all over the Gulf, the result of his deep urge for glory and grandeur, RIYADH DAILY said.

Saddam has committed enough criminal act to make him stand numerous Nuremberg-style trials. No other fate but this is in store for him. The world is waiting for that day. Doubtlessly, as the allies escalate their war to liberate Kuwait, that day will come soon.

The world must make an example out of Saddam Husayn. Never again will others having devious designs, similar to Saddam's dare raise their heads for fear of incurring the wrath of the world, the newspaper added.

United Arab Emirates

Omani Minister Arrives; To Discuss Gulf Crisis

On Regional Tour

NC0302080091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0710 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi today as part of a tour to a number of states in the region that will also take him to Qatar and Bahrain.

During his tour, the Omani minister will convey messages to the leaders of these states from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the continuous consultations among leaders in this historic decisive phase. The messages also tackle recent developments on the Gulf scene with a view to developing joint action.

Delivers Message to Zayid

NC0302111291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the current situation in the Gulf region in light of Iraq's continued occupation of the State of Kuwait and bilateral ties.

Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, delivered the message when he met with his highness the UAE president today in the presence His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces.

Shaykh Zayid Receives British Premier's Message

NC0302132791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from British Prime Minister John Major on developments in the Gulf region in light of the continuation of operations to liberate Kuwait, bilateral ties, and mutual cooperation.

British Chief Secretary of the Treasury David Mellor delivered the message when he met with Shaykh Zayid here today.

Zayid Sends Notes to Zaire, Austria, Turkey

NC0302033191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Feb (WAKH)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al

Nuhayyan has sent written messages to Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, and Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said the messages deal with the current situation in the region in light of the moves to liberate the state of Kuwait.

The messages were comunicated through diplomatic channels in response to similar messages His Highness Shaykh Zayid recently received from these countries' presidents.

U.S., Moroccan Soldiers Allegedly Clash

NC0402111991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Feb (INA)—Three American soldiers and one Moroccan soldier were killed and several more were wounded in a clash between U.S. and Moroccan forces deployed in the United Arab Emirates.

Yemen

Council Condemns Attacks on Foreigners

EA0202211091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Excerpts] This morning, the Council of Representatives held the 15th sitting of the first session of the [word indistinct] convention under the chairmanship of Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, the speaker of the Council. [passage omitted].

The council expressed its strong condemnation of the irresponsible acts to which some foreign interests were subjected in our country last Thursday at the hands of unknown elements. The council considered these acts to have been designed to distort the stand of the Yemeni Republic toward the Gulf problem and its view regarding its resolution, as well as to create a state of tension in the relations existing between our country and these countries.

At the same time, the Council of Representatives calls on Yemen to continue its support for the struggle and steadfastness of the fraternal Iraqis in their resistance to the brutal aggression, which is continuing for the third week. It appeals to all sons of the people to work sincerely for the unity of the internal front, raise the level of national vigilance to protect the great achievements of the Yemeni revolution, exert sincere efforts to increase production in the various production sectors, devote themselves to work as the driving force of our national effort, and resist all irresponsible efforts that some may make for political gain against any establishments, installations, or premises of foreign states in our country.

The council stressed that these sensitive circumstances require more awareness of national responsibility from all [words indistinct] the cause which they believe in imposes a great responsibility on them [word indistinct] with the current situation [word indistinct] without any justification for any forces which want to disrupt the situation by irresponsible [word indistinct] happened in the (?final) two days of last week.

In view of this, the council calls upon the government and the Security Council to take all necessary measures to deal with such acts. [passage omitted]

Explosion at French Embassy in Sanaa; No Damage

NC0302012691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2107 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 2 Feb (MENA)—An explosion took place in front of the French Embassy in Sanaa this evening without damaging the embassy building.

French Embassy sources in Sanaa said it is possible that the explosive charge hurled in front of the embassy building consisted of one stick of dynamite, the same material that was used in attacks against the residences of the Turkish and Japanese ambassadors in Sanaa last Thursday.

The Yemeni security authorities tightened security measures around the area where the explosion had taken place, increased patrols in the area, and conducted search campaigns in several main streets that leading to some Arab and foreign embassies. [passage omitted]

Explosion at Italian Embassy; No Casualties

NC0302215891 Cairo MENA in English 2032 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 3 (MENA)—An explosion took place at the Italian Embassy here tonight causing no casualties.

The Italian ambassador was at home at the time, the embassy premises.

Sources said security troops are making intensive efforts to arrest the perpetrators and to reveal the conspiracy which aims at destabilising the country and harming the deep-rooted relations which connect Yemen with sisterly and friendly countries.

The homes of the ambassadors of Turkey and Japan and the U.S. Embassy were targets of similar incidents on Thursday.

Red Crescent To Send Teams to Iraq

EA0202153691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] The Yemeni Red Crescent has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of the Red Cross, and Red Crescent societies of its readiness to send medical teams, medicines, and requisites, including blood, to brotherly Iraq. This was learned from a statement by a responsible source in the Yemeni Red Crescent. He said the Yemeni Red Crescent had asked the International Committee to ensure the arrival of this assistance to our brothers in Iraq. He added that the Crescent has been told in reply that the International

Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent are contacting the parties concerned to ensure arrival of the aid in Iraq.

At the end of his statement, the responsible source expressed optimism that the first aircraft would arrive in brotherly Iraq at the beginning of next week.

Economic Difficulties 'Compounded' by Gulf War

AB0202094091 Paris AFP in French 1147 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 31 Jan (AFP)—The Gulf war has further compounded the economic difficulties of Yemen, which is considered Iraq's "friend" and which is simultaneously confronted by the return of over a million immigrants and a considerable fall in its resources.

For decades, a large number of Yemenis have benefited from the hundreds of millions of dollars transferred each year by their compatriots in Arab countries in the Gulf. Now about 800,000 of these expatriates have been obliged to leave Saudi Arabia hastily after Riyadh, because of Yemen's support for Iraq, deprived them of the privileges they enjoyed over other aliens.

In addition to this "shortfall in revenue," economic circles in the region say that some $100 million has been lost due to the end of trade with Iraq and Kuwait. Unless a miracle happens, Sanaa—with a consolidated external debt amounting to about $7 billion last July—will find it difficult to revive its ailing economy. Already, a report published by the press in Sanaa indicates that the budget deficit for 1991-92 is estimated at $1.12 billion.

The immediate challenge to overcome is to find food for an estimated population of over 13 million. For this reason, the Yemeni Government has just decided to allocate portions of farm land to a large number of former expatriates who will be urged to give priority to producing basic food items. The main objective of this is to promote food self-sufficiency for this country which imports about two-thirds of its food needs. Yemen must rely on its two major assets: oil and Aden Port. In the short term it hopes to double its current oil exports estimated at 300,000 barrels a day. Yemen will also capitalize on plans to transform Aden Port as of 22 May into a free zone to restore the "golden age" it enjoyed before former South Yemen's independence in 1967.

Socialist Party, General People's Congress Meet

EA0102171291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] A joint meeting was held yesterday between leading officials of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the branch of the General People's Congress in the economic and commercial capital, Aden. The meeting was devoted to discussing bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing them as well as the nature of the tasks facing the two parties in this difficult and complicated stage.

At the meeting they discussed and approved a joint work plan for 1991, which includes attention to various economic, political, and cultural sectors of life.

Efforts to Include Iraq in Arab Summit Reported

NC0302172791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] The Yemeni newspaper 26 SEPTEMBER, mouthpiece of the Yemeni Army, said today that consultations are under way among a number of Arab capitals to hold an Arab mini-summit, which Iraq would attend, to discuss the situation in the Gulf. The paper added that the summit will discuss recent Arab developments, particularly in the wake of the U.S. aggression against Iraq.

The paper said that an Arab popular conference on the Gulf war will be held in the Yemeni capital on 10 February.

Reportage on Al-'Arashi Visit to Turkey

WA0102151491

For reportage on the visit by Yemeni Minister of State Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi to Turkey to discuss Gulf war, please see the Turkey section of the 1 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Text' of Second 'Aziz Letter to UN Head

NC0402115591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1004 GMT 4 Feb 91

["Text" of letter from Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on 1 February—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency, on 24 January, I sent you a letter informing you that the forces of the U.S.-NATO-Zionist alliance had been perpetrating horrendous and deliberate crimes against Iraqi citizens and their economic, scientific, cultural, and religious installations since it launched its aggression at 0230 on 17 January 1991. In this letter, I included a lengthy list of the crimes committed between 17 and 24 January, crimes which were later substantiated and reported by impartial press sources and which have become a main topic of discussion in political and media circles wordlwide.

What we find strange is that nothing has been done about this by the UN secretary general, despite the fact that not only the Iraqi people but all just and free men worldwide who look upon the United Nations as an institution charged with defending human values have been waiting for him to act.

You remain silent about these crimes, which are being committed for the first time in history in the name of the United Nations and under the aegis of the invalid and unjust resolutions that were issued by the UN Security Council, the latest being Resolution 678 of 1990. The entire world knows that these resolutions were adopted under pressure and blackmail and on the basis of the bribery practiced by the United States and its allies. This has disgraced the UN Security Council and the United Nations, as well as the countries which accepted the bribes and succumbed to the U.S. pressure and blackmail.

Mr. Secretary General, your silence on these crimes compounds this disgrace. The United Nations is now being used by the colonialist countries to oppress people and silence their free and independent voice, to perpetuate their domination over oil, and to secure continued Israeli hegemony on the region.

The objectives the United Nations is supposed to uphold are being violated before the eyes and ears of the UN secretary general, who says nothing.

Many independent voices have been raised denouncing the crimes that are being committed against the Iraqi people. Officials in some countries taking part in the aggression have protested and have announced that what is taking place has far exceeded the resolutions that were issued in the name of the United Nations in spite of the fact that these resolutions are invalid and unjust. In any case, you remain silent.

In this letter, I list other facts about the crimes committed against the Iraqi people, crimes that have taken place since my first letter was sent.

This is a record for history. History's judgment is harsh and without mercy.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

[Dated] 1 February

Assembly Speaker Comments on Plans for Long War

NC0202101691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Feb 91 pp 1, 15

[Ahmad al-Dabbas and Sa'd al-Silawi dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that the Iraqi Forces' entry into the Saudi town of al-Khafji was required by the circumstances of the battle and the needs of the military plan.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said: We entered al-Khafji within the framework of the Armed Forces' overall plan for confronting the American-Zionist-Atlantic enemy. Iraq does not want to annex al-Khafji. Our forces entered this military post because it was being used to launch aggression against our forces. There were foreign forces in this town near our forces, so the circumstances of the battle necessitated that our forces advance toward it to destroy the enemy forces there and to prevent them from affecting the course of the battle. This is what happened. The enemy forces ran away, but we will pursue them in many directions and deal fatal blows to them.

Answering a question on the Israeli threats to Jordan, Salih said: Jordan is strong by virtue of its leadership and the firmness of its people. It adopts an honorable pan-Arab stand toward the imperialist American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against the nation. The battle is an Arab one, and it is the duty of us in Iraq, along with all our brothers in the Arab homeland, to unite to respond to the aggression regardless of where it takes place and from where it originates, whether it comes from the holy land that has been occupied by foreign forces or from the holy land in Palestine that has been desecrated by the despotic Zionists. Therefore, the battle is with all our enemies, and Jordan will not be left alone in the battle; the heroic sons of the Arab people in Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria, and even in Egypt and the other Arab countries will all defend Jordan and the Arab people in Jordan if it is subjected to aggression from any source.

Regarding the course of the mother of battles, the Iraqi National Assembly speaker said: We plan to wage a protracted one, because the American strategy is based on the principle of blitzkrieg and a quick battle. To foil this strategy just as we foiled their blitzkrieg, the battle must be a long one. He added: The military and popular situations are reassuring and very strong. The initiative is and will remain in our hands, and victory will be our lot, God willing, as we have prepared ourselves well for this battle.

The Iraqi National Assembly speaker addressed the Arab masses, saying: The battle Iraq is currently waging is the Arab nation's battle. It is the battle of right over wrong, good over evil, and justice over oppression. The facts are now clear and victory is near. All Iraqis—men, women, children, and the elderly—make up the front of justice and right against that of injustice and aggression. Their great steadfastness is inspired by our struggler leader Saddam Husayn. The Iraqis, as part of this nation, are proceeding on the right course to achieve the Arab nation's expectations of liberating beloved Palestine and holy Jerusalem from the evil Zionist occupation, which violates all divine values and all human laws and principles.

He added: Victory is near and we call on all the Arab peoples to stand in one rank to defend right and to support the front of justice that is led by Iraq. It is a revolution until victory, as Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat says. He called on the Arab people and the free men in the world to strike at the interests of America and those of its allies everywhere.

Salih went on to say: The United States and its allies are carrying out their aggression against Iraq on the pretext of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 678, which they use as a cover for their strikes at the basic pillars in Iraq and their indiscriminate bombardment of civilians. He add: We have prepared everything necessary to confront the aggression in all its forms. We have foiled the blitzkrieg plan and we are employing all our resources for a long war. We will sacrifice all we hold dear for the sake of the nation's victory.

The Iraqi National Assembly speaker added: The enemies have carried out more than 30,000 air raids and dropped thousands of tons of explosives, but they have failed to achieve their objectives. The Iraqi people are determined to fight until victory is achieved and until Palestine is liberated, because our victory will also be a victory for Palestine and all oppressed nations. He said: The difference between us and our enemies is that we have faith in our just cause and in right, we enjoy a clear vision, and we defend ourselves and our sovereignty and principles, while the enemies lack common objectives. He stressed that the road followed by Iraq to liberate the nation's wealth and to use it to promote development and to confront the aggression is the road to the liberation of Palestine.

Commander Comments on Al-Khafji 'Operation Storm'

NC0302201891 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Interview with "the staff brigadier general, the commander of the Muhammad Ibn-al-Qasim forces" which mounted attack on Saudi Arabian town of al-Khafji, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Commander] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In implementation of the leadership's instructions, our forces were assigned the task of launching an attack on the enemy forces in the Saudi town of al-Khafji, destroying the enemy, and returning to our positions inside our territory.

[Word indistinct] at night with the utmost speed in two prongs: into the desert and along the coast. We besieged the town from all sides in record time, having followed the instructions and requirements for victory. The most important consisted of the surprise elements which the enemy never expected, despite all its electronic and technological means of which it always boasts. They were completely unable to discover the movement of any Iraqi vehicle.

We carried out our task after our soldiers raised the slogan God is great. We implemented the orders of our great leader, President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, who named it Operation Storm [al-harakah al-sa'iqah], which means isolated advance and decisive speed. The Muhammad al-Qasim forces pledge to our heroic leader that it will continue to be a sharp sword to cut off the heads of the enemies of the Arabs and Muslims, the occupiers of the holy land. These forces are prepared to carry out any future task assigned to them regardless of the nature because it has great self-confidence. This is what we have seen these forces do recently.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Commander] As you are aware, the morale of every Iraqi now has never been higher. This is because of their self-confidence, the proper use of weapons, and the trust in their leadership. [words indistinct] in the recent battle, in the attack by our forces, we noted that the hostile land forces' morale was very low. [passage indistinct] Twenty Iraqi soldiers inflicted losses on an American regiment and forced it to retreat. Two hours later, they again attacked [words indistinct] and then retreated. At daybreak, they sought the assistance of their Air Force with a very heavy attack on all sides. Yet their advance was very slow and the land forces of both the NATO alliance and the agent Fahd forces mounted a very weak response; they became scared when they sustained losses. [words indistinct] after carrying out their sacred duties, our units returned after performing the daring attack, which we called Operation Storm, and destroyed the largest number possible of enemy forces in the town. Our forces returned to the position from which they began their operation. They [word indistinct] had their high morale, which rose further because they tested the U.S. land forces and those allied with them, and proved that they were very weak and could not realize [word indistinct] despite their technology.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Commander] They were in great confusion. This is proved by the fact that the U.S. Air Force bombed the American and Saudi units. [words indistinct] their killed and wounded. This shows great disarray and lack of coordination between the land forces and the Air Force. They were afraid of our land units. This shows the [word indistinct] at the American land and air forces.

The Muhammad al-Qasim forces pledge to our heroic leader that they will remain a sword to behead the enemies of the Arabs and Muslims, the occupiers of the holy land, and that they are prepared to carry out any future task regardless of the nature because it has great self-confidence to carry out any instructions.

God is great, victory is for great Iraq under the leadership of our leader, the pride of the Arabs, leader President Saddam Husayn. Peace be upon you from the staff brigadier general, the commander of the Muhammad Ibn-al-Qasim forces.

Military Communiques Claim Successes, Shootdowns

'Hostile Plane' Downed 2 Feb

NC0202181091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1704 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Communique No. 35 issued by the General Command of the Armed Forces on 2 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Arab nation has suffered a great deal from weakness, division, submission to foreign hegemony, and lagging behind the march of progress. That was until the ember of awakening was revived in great Iraq, the shield of the Arabs and Muslims, the haven of their [word indistinct] and the symbol of their civilization. This awakening is led by the grandson of the prophet of Arabs and Muslims, the inheritor of heroism and symbol of enlightened human thinking—great Saddam Husayn, the leader of the faithful gathering. He is the minaret of all mankind in a new world free of hegemony, exploitation, injustice, and aggression. Today, the Arab nation and the entire Islamic world is being awakened by the roaring sound of justice emanating from Baghdad to fend off the enemies of Islam, to repel the remnants of aggression and debauchery, and to bring to account before history and the masses the traitors who gave up Palestine and other honorable Arab land, wealth, and future.

Our valiant Armed Forces are guided by the thinking of their leader. They are inspired by his bravery and sincerity, and they are marching behind him in his continuous jihad. Our forces in the field of pride and great honor are challenging the armies of aggression. They want to turn this great showdown into an Arab gate leading to freedom, unity, and civilization and a gate for all Muslims leading to the revival of their vanguard role that God gave to them and prepared them for. The unsheathed swords of Iraq will not be sheathed again until the remnants of aggression leave the land of the holy mosque of Mecca and the tomb of the messenger of God. The swords will not be sheathed until Jerusalem returns to its kinfolk and until the Arab will is freed from the hegemony of foreigners. The Arabs and Muslims should become their own masters, bowing to nobody but God Almighty. The swords will not be sheathed until the nation's wealth is restored to its sons and is used to for the well-being of the entire Arab nation, instead of being looted by the covetous ones and their hireling agents, as is the case now.

Through all the past pages of the political and military struggle, events have proven in no uncertain terms that the army of faith—the army of Iraq—is stronger and more capable. It will inevitably triumph, with God's help. Every showdown that has been led, and is being led, by the people's leader Saddam Husayn, beloved of millions of Arabs, Muslims, and honest people in the world, will conclude with God's certain and imminent victory.

The coward Americans, their Zionist allies, and their Atlantic collaborators—above all dishonest Britain, the permanent enemy of the Arabs—continue their hesitation, vacillation, and cowardice with regard to any contact with our forces stationed on the firing lines. The efforts of these cowards are confined to striking at residential areas in towns, villages, and farms with aircraft that drop their bombs from high altitude and do not dare to approach within the range of our valiantly manned air defenses. They have also fired their missiles from across the border of the Saudi clan, the blot of shame on the face of this nation, and across the Iraqi-Turkish border. The number of their air sorties yesterday and today reached 24 sorties. Our brave air defense forces shot down one hostile plane. Their good efforts are blessed. Go forward and God is with us.

[Signed] Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 16 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 2 February 1991

Scud Launchers Return 'Safely'

NC0302202991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Communique No. 36 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. Iraqi anger is increasing against the enemies of God and mankind to burn with its flames the dens of domination and agentry wherever they are found defiling the land of the Arabs and their sanctities, whether in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] or in beloved Palestine. The people of Iraq are the first founders of human civilization, the first contributors to the building of human values, and the stubborn, strong, and persistent strugglers in defense of their land and resources, and the ones who always aspire for one Arab homeland, united in objectives and destiny, replete with good for the Arab people, and [words indistinct] Muslims. God has blessed the struggle of the people of Iraq and their Armed Forces, the vanguards of the Muslims, helped them, blinded their enemies, and provided them with all the means of defiance and steadfastness against the savage invaders, robbers, infidels, the shameless, the criminals and their sons and grandsons. A banner embroidered with the phrase God is great will continue to fly in glory and be held by the grandson of the prophet, the hero of this age, the example of honest men, and the model of [word indistinct] courageous men—Saddam Husayn, God protect him.

O brothers in the homeland and faith. To challenge the gathering of evil men, to show solidarity and unity with the people of Palestine, our brothers in God and motherhood, to revenge our innocent martyrs in the enemy's raids—in which Zionist Bush resorted to aiming at our children and women because of his cowardice and hesitancy instead of facing the wall of fire that we have prepared for his scoundrels on our impregnable borders—and to confirm all the legitimate rights of self-defense, our heroic missile force carried out the following strikes with al-Husayn missiles last night:

1. A destructive strike at the city of Tel Aviv on the Mediterranean coast in occupied Palestine to deprive the evil Zionists of sleep. These Zionists have been oppressing our people in Palestine, forgetting that God and Iraq will punish them.
2. A destructive strike at the city of Riyadh, the capital of the Sa'ud family, the symbol of shame.
3. Another destructive strike at the city of Tel Aviv to further humiliate the Zionists, the merchants and proponents of terrorism. After carrying out these painful strikes, our missile launchers returned safely to base, with God's help.
4. The enemy continues to propel its ravens and missiles toward residential quarters in our country. The number of enemy air sorties reached 28 sorties over our country across the Turkish and Saudi borders and across the Iranian border, violating the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

May God hail the men, women, and children of Iraq. Go forward.

[Signed] Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 17 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 3 February 1991

Military Statements on 3 Feb Missile Attacks

On Tel Aviv

NC0302073591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0635 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Statement issued by a military spokesman on 3 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: After regaining their territory, taking control of their own affairs, and embarking on a new march of righteousness, Iraq's great people are today raising the banner of God is great, carried by heroic leader Saddam Husayn. They are now standing as believers in God and as an ancient people who know how to protect their independence from the forces of colonialism and Zionism, to preserve their soil and wealth from the covetous, and to perform their national duty toward their Arab and Muslim brothers in defense of the Muslims' sanctities, which, with assistance from the agents, have been desecrated by the feet of barbarians.

This war was ignited by the U.S. and Zionist warmonger politicians, but they are now weak before Iraq's fortified wall. With every day of war that passes, our people grow firmer and stronger, the Arab nation's rallying around our people grows more solid, and world sympathy with our people grows wider. With every passing day, our Armed Forces become more ready to confront the aggressors until the decisive hour comes, when the aggressive scoundrels will be slaughtered like lambs. We have challenged colonialism in defense of our land, honor, and religion, and the challenge will continue until they stop their crimes, acknowledge our right to our land, recognize the rights of our people in Palestine, and stop encroaching upon God's teachings. God is able to grant us victory. Those who rely on God will not be frustrated and those who believe in Him will have no cause for regret.

The Zionist-American enemy is continuing its aggression against our country. It launched 17 air raids against our country across the Saudi and Turkish borders. In response to the enemy attacks and to avenge the Arab blood in Iraq and Palestine, your heroic missile force last night used al-Husayn missiles to deal a devastating blow to Tel Aviv, the capital of the usurper and occupying Zionist entity. Our launchers returned to base safely. Glory be to Iraq, and may God bless the heroic men of our missile force. Forward we march.

[Dated] 3 February

On More Tel Aviv Strikes

NC0302081891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0805 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Statement issued by a military spokesman on 3 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Further to the statement issued this morning, 3 February, our heroic missile force dealt another blow to the city of Tel Aviv with al-Husayn missiles at dawn today. The missile launchers returned safely to base, praise be to God.

May God bless the men of our heroic missile force. Thanks be to God for his victory.

[Dated] 3 February

On Riyadh

NC0302111891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1106 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Statement issued by a military spokesman on 3 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Further to our statement issued this morning, 3 February, our heroic missile force dealt a destructive blow to the city of Riyadh, the den of treason, disgrace, infidelity, and atheism with al-Husayn missiles after midnight last night. O heroic missile force men, continue your blows. God is on our side.

[Dated] 3 February

Spokesman Announces Raids on 'Residential Areas'

NC0202095991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0924 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear citizens, a military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Our great people and their Armed Forces continue to be the pride of Arabs, Muslims, and advocates of right, justice, and peace throughout the world. They continue their heroic sacred jihad to liberate the holy shrine in Mecca and the tomb of the last of the messengers. They are united with the struggle of the Palestinian people to liberate the usurped Arab lands in Palestine.

The usurpers of the Arab land, the desecraters of its sanctities, and the looters of its wealth find no means to confront Iraq's courageous challenge and its valiant Armed Forces. They are stationed in the depths of Saudi territory, in the hideouts provided for them by the agent Al Sa'ud family. The height of their power was to send some of their aircraft to attack, from a distance, residential areas in our country. There have been 18 of these cowardly raids on these areas. Iraq continues to steer toward victory, God willing. Its brave and faithful officers and personnel continue to await the moment of revenge to force Bush and his agents to respect places for worship of God, the Arab's right to their lands, wealth, and security, and their right to freely choose their way of building their homelands. God supports strugglers all the time.

[Dated] 2 February

Reports 9 Aircraft Downed 4 Feb

NC0402090091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0813 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Statement issued by a military spokesman on 4 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. The world these days is witnessing a unique event, which will remain a model to be followed by the peoples of the world in opposing colonialism and crushing its aggression after destroying its political, economic, and social pillars. This splendid defiance of U.S. colonialism and its Zionist allies would not have occurred had it not been for the requirements of struggle the brave Iraqis have made through their efforts, struggle, and their leader's wisdom throughout the years of the revolution and had it not been for the new man created by the revolution, a man who has become an established fact in this noble country.

The Iraqis and their armed struggle, under the banner of God is great, are determined and are forging ahead to seize victory in this honorable showdown. In view of this burning struggle, the torch of which was kindled by the Iraqi people, the enemies must leave our land, take their hands off the sanctities of the Arabs and the Muslims, end their criminal policy, and recognize the full rights of Iraqis and Arabs. Amid the current state of affairs, the savage forces of the Americans, Zionists, and others can do nothing but launch the cowardly operations they thought would break the will of right. They have shown their bankruptcy in this attempt too and have been disappointed.

A review of the enemy's cowardly attacks shows that it mounted 77 air raids from Saudi and Turkish territory—violating Iranian airspace as well. The enemy also fired several ground-to-ground [maydaniyah] missiles, but with courage and perseverance, our heroic air and ground defenses repulsed these attacks and managed, with God's help, to down nine enemy military aircraft, all of which fell on the battlefronts or inside our country, except for one aircraft which fell on Syrian territory and another plane which fell into the Gulf. Glory to you, O Iraqi fighters, wherever you are—whether on the borders of the homeland or inside it. Victory will be yours, God willing.

[Dated] 4 February

Denies Report on Officers' Execution

NC0402132891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—A spokesman for the Ministry of Culture and Information has denied reports broadcast by the Voice of America that the commanders of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense Forces have been executed.

The spokesman told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the report is completely baseless and a sheer fabrication. The spokesman said: We are aware of such fabrications which can only cause ridicule and laughter. The Air Force is part of proud Iraq and its brave sons deserve the love of victorious leader Saddam Husayn and the noble people of al-Rafidayn.

The spokesman added: The Air Force and the artillery which confront the enemy's aircraft and targets will always remain alert to protect Iraq's soil and skies until victory comes from God.

Awqaf Minister Lists Damaged Religious Sites

NC0102190891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs 'Abdallah Fadil has said that the determination of the forces of oppression and aggression to hit civilian targets, houses of worship, and Muslim and Christian sanctities with rockets expresses their vindictiveness and malice against all humanitarian values.

The minister told INA that the American-Atlantic-Zionist forces and their allies and agents are afraid of religious sites because they help Iraqis in their confrontation with Satan.

The forces of infidelity and aberration imagine that by hitting sacred Muslim and non-Muslim places they can undermine the morale of patient and believing mujahidin.

'Abdallah Fadil said it was not surprising that these forces, which have defiled Jerusalem, Mecca, and Medina should perpetrate a criminal act contrary to Islam. He noted that they have struck Islamic sanctities in Baghdad, al-Najaf, Karbala', Basra, and Mosul, and razed the Marcorikis Church, which sits in a densely-populated residential neighborhood in Hadithah. They also wrecked the Martatuma church in Mosul while a mass was in progress.

The minister said the barbaric enemy had shelled civilian targets around the Haydari courtyard [al-sahn] in the city of al-Najaf, killing scores of innocent people and creating a large crater.

Meanwhile, random, indiscriminate shelling by the enemy demolished many houses around the Kazimi courtyard. Many mosques have been demolished in al-Basrah Governorate, and al-Madinah Mosque in al-Durah was badly damaged. In Baghdad, 'Adilah Khatun, al-Qadamariyah, 'Ali Afandi, al-Rawdah al-Muhamadiyah, and al-Murjan Mosques, in addition to other mosques around the country, have been badly damaged.

Mr. 'Ali Fadil declared that this barbarity will only stiffen the resolve of the faithful people of Iraq to stand up to this tyranny and to liberate our land and sanctities from their filth and the filth of such traitors as the accursed Fahd and the light-headed Husni, who have become bywords for vice, treason, and base behavior.

The minister said that all the minarets and archeological and religious sites in Iraq will bear witness to the infidelity and malice harbored by these infidel against our religion and sanctities, as they have a grudge against peoples whose roots go back far in history.

Vicious Bush, he added, will be called to account for the spilled blood, now that the claims by the forces of evil that they would not touch religious and scientific locations have been shown to be claims and no more. They have shown themselves to be unscrupulous, unprincipled villains.

Foreign Newsmen Visit Bombed Areas, Hospitals

NC0202121691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The correspondents of television networks, news agencies, and foreign newspapers today witnessed the results of the barbaric bombardment of residential areas in Baghdad by the ravens and missiles of U.S., NATO, and Zionist imperialism. Foreign media representatives also visited a number of hospitals to which a number of civilians injured in the U.S.-Nato-Zionist aggressive and brutal bombardment had been evacuated. A large percentage of these people were children, women, and the elderly.

The foreign correspondents spoke to a number of citizens whose homes and residential areas had been subjected to brutal bombardment. The citizens told reporters that the missiles and planes of the enemies cannot intimidate them but only increased their resolve to confront the brutal ordeal.

The citizens stressed their firm support to the struggling leader Saddam Husayn who is leading the battle under the slogan: God is great.

Reportage on Air Raids, Damage Throughout Nation

Explosions in Mandali

NC0302053091 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] The Iraqi city of Mandali and nearby areas were shaken by four strong explosions yesterday afternoon. The Central News Unit reports from Ilam that loud explosions were heard between 1530 and 1650 at 20-minute intervals in Mehran's Salehabad district. The report adds that planes were heard flying over the area after each explosion.

Raids on Basra; No Details

LD3101184991 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] According to IRNA reporting from Khorramshahr, various areas of the town of Basra were subjected to air and missile attacks by the United States and its allies today. The noise could be heard in Khorramshahr. No information is available on the damage and casualties caused by the multinational force air and missile attacks on Basra today.

Bombing of Southern Cities

LD0302175891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Today multinational force planes, continuing their attacks against different Iraqi cities, bombarded Basra, al-Faw, and Abd-al-Khasib and the al-Tannumah area in the southern part of that country. An IRNA correspondent today from Khorramshahr, sending that report, added that several tremendous explosions occurred in the Basra area this afternoon, which were heard in Khorramshahr.

Last night also, Basra and and its suburbs were heavily bombed by U.S. and multinational force planes. The explosions shook the buildings in Khorramshahr.

Troops Reportedly Retreat From Al-Khafji

LD0102170591 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Iraq today said its "Mohammad al-Qasim" troops who had infiltrated the Saudi port of al-Khafji had "retreated" to their former positions.

A military communique broadcast on Sawt al-Jamahir [Voice of the Masses] radio this evening (1510 GMT) also said Iraqi anti-aircraft fire had brought down 20 aerial targets, including missiles and aircraft of the U.S.-Led forces since last night.

It also said 94 air raids had been carried out against the Iraqi cities over the same period by the Western forces.

Troop Morale Reportedly 'Very Low'

LD0302123791 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Iraq has sustained heavy damages in the Persian Gulf war and the morale of its Armed Forces is very low, reported Radio Jeddah Saturday night quoting a number of Iraqi refugees who have recently fled to Khate township on Syria-Iraq border.

The refugees said the Iraqi soldiers had either to fight in the war or face execution.

They also said Baghdad streets are empty and hunger and poverty is witnessed everywhere. Various skin diseases caused due to water shortage are spreading throughout the city, they claimed, according to the radio.

No one in Iraq believes in Saddam's claims about Islam, they said, adding that the Iraqi president has hung his posters inside mosques and any one opposing his measures is condemned to death.

But a reporter of the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE (AFP) who has recently visited Baghdad says normal life continues in the city and shops except for those selling foodstuffs are closed. Bakeries are closed and bread is rare in the city, Bernard Sterad said in an interview with the French radio Sunday morning.

He said columns of black smoke caused by fire were billowing over Baghdad skies and the city was under constant bombings of the allied forces.

Electricity is cut in Baghdad and drinking water is being distributed in some areas but access to telephone is out of question.

There is no problem for the Western reporters in Baghdad who are taken care of by intelligence forces, he said.

Mosque Preachers Declare 'Holy Jihad' in Sermons

NC0102210191 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Mosque imams and preachers in Baghdad and all governorates sang the praises of Almighty God for the certain victory, forbearance, and strong resolve He granted to the mujahid Iraqi forces in their confrontation of the ravens of the United States, the remnants of the coalition, and the buildup of the apostates and traitors.

In their Friday sermons today, mosque imams and preachers declared holy jihad, saying it was a duty to be performed by all able-bodied Muslims. They condemned the savage raids targeted against places of worship, holy shrines, and innocent civilians. They appealed to the conscience of Muslims all over the world to stand in the trench of the messenger of God, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, and to engage in jihad along with Iraq and its Armed Forces. They asked Islamic movements and groups all over the world to strike U.S. interests, because this is viewed as a jihad to vindicate the cause of God. Furthermore, they beseeched Almighty God to guide the steps of leader President Saddam Husayn, the faithful slave of God whose victory is ordained by God, so that the banner of God is great can flutter aloft.

Ulema Call on World's Muslims 'To Save Iraq'

NC0302010491 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The Iraqi ulema addressed an appeal to the Islamic world in the four corners of the Earth. The appeal says:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. An appeal from the Iraqi ulema to the Islamic world in the four corners of the earth. It is no secret that Iraq—people, territory, cities, villages, mosques, other houses of worship, schools, and universities—is being subjected to a barbaric bombardment by the infidel states led by the United States and its allies, the traitors and the hypocrites. This group of infidels has assembled to kill the Muslim Iraqi people—children, elderly, and women—and to destroy its scientific, cultural, and civilized potential and resources. The aircraft of the U.S. enemy and its evil allies are raining their lethal missiles on all the civilian areas in cities, villages, the countryside, and the holy places around the clock. These raids have demolished hundreds of homes over the heads of their occupants, mosques, houses of worship, universities,and schools.

In their appeal, the Iraqi ulema call on Muslims to stand united against this barbaric and apostate aggression, and to come to the rescue of their brother Iraqis with all their capabilities and potentials to save Iraq and its holy places from the aggression of the infidels and the shameless in implementation of God's order: Fight in the cause of God those who fight you. [Koranic verse]

The Iraqi ulema called on all the faithful in the four corners of the Earth to carry out jihad and fight the infidel aggressors. In their appeal, the ulema greeted the Iraqi soldiers, the soldiers of Islam, who are carrying out jihad against the forces of apostasy and despotism under the banner of God is great.

India Condemned for Refueling U.S. Planes

NC0202084991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0802 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] An official spokesman of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

We received with great surprise and regret the report that Indian authorities allowed 38 U.S. C-141 planes to refuel at Bombay airport, under the flimsy pretext that these planes were not carrying weapons or destructive equipment, but were being used for humanitarian purposes.

The Indian Government knows very well, more so than any other government—and just as the Indian public and the rest of the world know—that the administration of the war criminal Bush has pushed all its military and aggressive abilities. It also knows that it has led the largest massing of criminal and military troops against Iraq and the Arab nation, and that the huge U.S. planes which were refueled with the gasoline of aggression are part of the machine to destroy Iraq, to annihilate its people, and to demolish its cultural accomplishments through hundreds of thousands of indiscriminate raids waged over the past two weeks on Baghdad and other towns and villages of steadfast and great Iraq—the cradle of the first humanitarian civilization in history.

What kind of humanitarian task is this that is being carried out by the U.S. planes of death? Is the killing of innocents and the shelling of civilian, economic, religious, educational, and health centers listed under the conditions of humanity?

While we reject this unfriendly course followed by the Delhi authorities, we also reject the pretext given and demand that the Indian Government not repeat such behavior. This behavior does not harmonize with the heritage of friendship and traditional cooperation linking the Iraqis and the Arabs to the ancient Indian nation. This completely contradicts the nonaligned policy of India, one of the founding countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

1 Indian Said Killed, 3 Injured in Allied Raid

BK0102132491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] One Indian has been killed and three others seriously injured in the allied air raids on the Baghdad-Amman Highway during the last three days. According to reports available in Amman they came under air attack near the Jordan-Iraqi border. Seven Jordanians were also killed in the bombing.

Our Gulf correspondent quoting Indian Embassy sources in Amman reports that the group of 116 [Indian] nurses is safe in Iraq. They have also got the exit visas and are expected to reach Jordan tomorrow. At present there are 715 Indians in Azraq camp in Jordan. Arrangements are being made to repatriate them in the next three to four days.

Joint Statement Issued With Palestinian Delegation

NC0302012991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2337 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] A joint statement has been issued on the talks held between a Palestinian parliamentary delegation and the National Assembly delegation. The Iraqi and Palestinian national [word indistinct] expressed their position as being in one trench in the face of the Americans-Zionists and their allies' aggression against Iraq, which is regarded as an aggression against the (?entire) Arab nation.

Commentary Urges Arab Soldiers To Join Iraqis

NC0102210691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O Arab soldier who has been ordered into the American-Zionist-Atlantic trench against your brother Iraqi soldier, or rather against yourself. O Arab soldier who has been ordered by them to be an occupier and aggressor like the Zionist Americans. The land you occupy and encroach upon is the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Iraq. It is your land in Egypt, Syria, and Morocco. Is the soil not the same? Is the blood not the same? Is God not the same?

O Arab soldier who has been ordered by them to be the enemy, killer, and torturer of your own self, O Arab soldier who has received orders from them, have you forgotten that you are an Arab, a Muslim, the son of the people, that you are in the army to protect the homeland, that you are in the army to protect the honor, and that you have been assigned for honest and noble (?goals)?

O Arab soldier who has received orders from them, is military command for anything else but to serve a just cause and to advance to victory over the enemies? May the homeland and the [word indistinct] be preserved. Is this not what the forefathers did? Is this not what we inherited and learned from them? Then, why should an order be obeyed when it is contradictory, odd, and detrimental or [words indistinct]? Why should a command be obeyed when it drives the soldier to shame, downfall, and ignoble death?

O Arab soldier who has been commanded by them, refuse the order that (?makes) you a mercenary under the arrogance of strangers who are hateful of your nation and religion. Disobey the command that wants you to sell, betray, and shed blood for the sake of America and the Zionists. Disobey the command that wants you to be without origin and future. Disobey the command issued to you by the cowards, the lackeys, the bribed, and the servile. [words indistinct] and you will survive. When alive, you should support your people, principles, and noble goals. When you die, you will be remembered by what you have left for your family, sons, and relatives. So will you leave behind glory or shame?

O Arab soldier who has been commanded by them, here is the opportunity ahead of you to lay down your arms and shake hands with your brother. Advancing toward your brother is not a defeat or a surrender. By doing so, you advance toward your kinfolk and thus your and your brother's blood will be saved and you will be united as God, his messenger, and the faithful, would have wanted you to be.

Soldiers' 'Gallantry,' 'Mettle' Praised

NC0102182691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the sons of Iraq have proved their mettle in this decisive showdown and have added glorious pages to the record of their gallantry, manhood, and struggle.

In an editorial entitled "The Mettle of Genuine Men," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The struggling soldiers of righteousness in their field activities and all honest Iraqis in their steadfastness against the imperialist and Zionist ravens of evil have proved that they are filled with the spirit of victory and that they have deep faith in the causes for which they are fighting.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the sons of Iraq have given the example that for long they have promised to their nation, the example of a strong and rising country depending on its pious and sincere sons.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the whole world of evildoers will not be able to defeat a country whose sons believe in victory, who see it with the eyes of their faith, and who record a noble achievement with every step they take.

Nation's 'Huge Armament Potential' Stressed

NC0102155391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Armed Forces, says that the weapons and military potential Iraq has used so far represent only a drop in the bucket of its huge armament potential, which will cause the enemies frustration and disappointment as they reap the crop of their aggression in the form of torn limbs.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the heroic operation carried out by our brave Armed Forces in storming the Saudi coastal town of al-Khafji proves a new fact to be added to Iraqi strength, which is that, despite the ferocity of the savage American onslaught, Iraq still holds the initiative in the war.

The paper adds that Iraq's military calculations in the battlefield and its use of available potential will provide further surprises in the war arenas. The enemies must expect this at any moment and hour and at any place on the battleground.

AL-QADISIYAH notes in its editorial that the war imposed by the enemies on our Arab nation and on Iraq, in particular—as it is the vanguard of Arab awakening—has shown in every detail so far that the aggression aims at destroying Iraqi power. And Iraqi power represents the power of the nation and adds a new dimension in confronting the imperialist and Zionist schemes against the Arab nation and its existence.

The Iraqi paper says that the Iraqis have discovered—after all the days of the war imposed on them—the dimensions of the American- Western-Zionist scheme. They have also learned that the only way to confront this madness and the humiliation intended for the Arab nation is unprecedented steadfastness until the enemy forces are destroyed.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The Iraqis have proven that their ability to conduct this confrontation cannot be affected by these hideous aggressive American acts. The paper adds that Iraqis, Arabs, and Muslims fully believe that victory will be theirs in this decisive duel.

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH notes that Iraq's strength has proven and will prove again that the sick American imagination is no more than rotten malice that has taken over the aggressive American mentality. And the result of the duel will be what Iraq decides and what it wants to achieve once the aggression has been defeated and the banner of God is great has been raised by the hands of the valiant under the victorious leader Saddam Husayn.

Paper Predicts War Dangerous, Costly for U.S.

NC0202002791 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Jan 91 p 2

[Article signed by AL-THAWRAH: "A Costly Price for the Aggression Against Iraq"]

[Text] Despite the U.S., British, and French authorities' strict control over the journalists who cover the allied forces' treacherous and aggressive war against Iraq, Pentagon circles and other American circles have gradually and perhaps deliberately begun to leak information about the costly U.S. lossess in the war within the framework of a plan aimed at preparing U.S. public opinion to accept the bad news of the war and its human and material costs.

Within this context, circles close to the U.S. Defense Department have said that the number of U.S. planes "missing" in the aggression against Iraq as of the day before yesterday [27 January] is approximately 100 planes and that the number of U.S. planes damaged during the aggressive raids on Iraq ranges from 50 to 60 planes. Despite this, the number of missing or damaged planes is certainly larger than this, particularly in light of the news blackout the U.S. Administration imposes on its losses. This is in addition to what Iraq has announced in its communiques, which is more correct, especially since it is concerned about its credibility in this regard.

When we take into account that despite all the human and material losses, the American air raids have failed to achieve the objectives sought by the United States and its allies, and that these air raids cannot achieve the aspired objective, as was stated in the final conclusion of the commanders of U.S. military intelligence, then we can say that the only thing that has been achieved by these raids by U.S. forces and their allies is that they have perpetrated hideous and premeditated crimes against Iraqi citizens and our great people's economic, cultural, scientific, and religious institutions. Of course, the fascist aggressors have perpetrated all these crimes and brutal actions under the cover of the unjust and fabricated resolutions of the UN Security Council, the latest of which was Resolution No. 678, which America obtained through pressures, bribes, and blackmail.

The criminal, aggressive war ignited against Iraq by the fascist Bush will no doubt affect the U.S. economy as a whole. It will also lead to recession, inflation, and the aggravation of social and economic crises. When the U.S. warplanes' raids on Iraq cost the American treasury, and consequently the American people, $500 million per day, then securing such a sum of money undoubtedly necessitates the levying of new taxes to support what they call the war effort. However, such taxes are being met with strong opposition by all sectors of the American people, particularly by the poor class in the United States.

The war criminal Bush wagered on an inexpensive blitzkrieg. However, the lofty Iraqis, who have faith in their just battle and its legitimate objectives, have checked this stupid betting and proved that it is useless and unsuccessful. This has forced Bush himself to admit this fact, to prepare his people to accept human, economic, and political losses, and to expect more. This is why he said that war will take some time and will not end in a short time and why he called on Americans not to express optimism over war operations after having long promised a surprise and decisive war different from the Vietnam war.

If the U.S. Administration has forced the Croesuses—the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques and the Japanese Government—to extend financial aid equal to 80 percent of the aid required to finance the military operations during the first three months of the war, then the relevant question here is: Can the Bush administration compensate for its human and political losses, and can it convince the American people that it is sacrificing the blood of tens of thousands of Americans for the sake of the Croesus of Kuwait and the interests of the oil and monopoly companies?

Bush is sinking into the quagmire of the war he has sought and insisted on. If he has thus far been able to conceal the facts, losses, and course of the war, he will not be able to do the same thing in the future, when there will be many more human losses, and when the American people begin to receive thousands of sad coffins daily. Yes, despite all that has so far been paid by the aggressors, in the forefront of whom is Bush, they will pay more and more when the ground battles, which they fear and express concern about, begin.

When the ground battle begins, the fascist, criminal Bush will realize that the aggression against Iraq is much more dangerous and costly than he had expected or imagined and that catastrophes, social and economic crises, and tens of thousands of sad coffins are all that the United States and its allies will reap as a result of their treacherous aggression against Iraq. They will see.

U.S., Allies Said To Find Iraq No 'Easy Morsel'

NC0202005191 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Jan 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Punishment Will Be Inflicted on Everyone Who Has Harmed Iraq"]

[Text] Since the oil slick that resulted from the bombing of two Iraqi oil tankers by U.S. warplanes has caused such widespread panic and confusion among the parties in the cursed alliance of masters and servants, what kind of panic will there be when the entire ground and everything on it is burned, when the Arabian Peninsula becomes a great graveyard for the aggressors, and when the waters of the Arabian Gulf swallow the fleets along with their occupants?

The most difficult chapters of war will cast their dark shadows on the parties in the cursed alliance when the clash occurs and the Iraqi mujahid pours out his anger on those who have encroached on the rights of Iraq, the Arabs, and the Muslims. What kind of panic will grip them when the coming chapters of the battle expand and are no longer restricted to the treacherous air raids on homes, mosques, churches, and religious and scientific centers in Iraq?

The American war minister says: "There may be Iraqi surprises." By this, he is preparing himself and those fighting at his behest to expect real, inevitable, and decisive surprises in the battle, which will determine the course and results of the war. Iraq has repeatedly warned the U.S. Administration that, while it can begin the war, it will not be able to end it when it wants or determine its results. Many days have passed without the enemy being able to achieve any of its goals within the time frame it has drawn up. On the contrary, the initial Iraqi response confused the parties in the cursed alliance, although it was only a prelude to the wide-scale response that will deal a blow to the enemy with a sharp ax.

Since the Iraqis have faith in the soundness of the causes which they are fighting for and defending, they have raised their capabilities to the level of that faith, and it is they who will determine when and how to use these capabilities, the time that best suits them, and the place where the fire will be started. Those who have participated in aggression on Iraq and who have harmed its territory, airspace, and waters should have realized a certain fact that is part of this country and its people: The ethical duty of the Iraqi individual and society makes the people of this country firmly adhere to their rights, foremost of which is their right to cut off the fingers of the aggressors or those who have harmed Iraq. There is a voice in the conscience of every Iraqi that says: "Those whom we want cannot escape punishment." No small or mean people, who participated in the aggression with one or two planes, money, or propaganda should think he can escape punishment, which will come in time, and at the level determined by Iraq.

Those who think that Iraq is an easy morsel have begun to admit that Iraq is not that easy; and they will be assured by its people, leader, and great capabilities that it is very difficult, and that it will become more difficult in the glorious days to come, the days of the mother of battles, strength, and victory.

Ground War Said Backed by 'All Types' of Weapons

NC0202112591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH writes that since the beginning of the duel, Iraq has firmly believed that war will not be decided until men clash on the battlefield.

In an article entitled "The Words Iraq and Victory Are Synonymous," the newspaper says that Iraq has mobilized its Army and made its preparations and military plans down to the last detail on the basis of waging a ground battle backed, whenever needed, by all types of other weapons. The newspaper says that the past few days since the outbreak of the fighting due to the U.S. aggression have borne out the soundness of our plans and the correctness of our military doctrine. The allied invasion forces are left with no choice but to fight the ground war and to come face to face with the Iraqi Army, a confrontation they have tried to avoid repeatedly. These forces will have to make this bitter choice.

The newspaper says that in its dirty war, the U.S. enemy has wagered on its brutal force's technology and concentrated its cowardly raids on the goal of destroying Iraq, its residential areas, economic installations, and manufacturing plants. In its brutal attack, the enemy has not spared a factory for children's milk or Islamic and Christian places of worship, but its planning and its unethical and inhumane planning and wagering was soon to collapse in the face of Iraq's legendary steadfastness. Iraq remained safe and proud while the U.S. ravens kept falling as their planes crashed each day on Iraqi land.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: The goal of the Americans and their accomplices has become clear to the entire world. They want to destroy Iraq as a prelude to subjugating the Arab world, plundering its wealth, and consolidating the Zionist presence. By the same token, Iraq's goals have also become clear. Iraq is exercising legitimate self-defense. Iraq is defending its longstanding civilization against the war waged by the hostile U.S.-Arab war machine. Iraq seeks to repel the enemy forces, to restore the rights of the Arab people, and to confirm the sovereignty of the Arabs over their land from the ocean to the Gulf.

The newspaper adds: War is a two-way contest, particularly when it has the durable and comprehensive aspects of the mother of battles epic. Therefore, when the fighting breaks out on the ground, no single military operation, regardless of how big, will be decisive. Battles will follow battles until the U.S. enemy collapses, admits defeat, recognizes all the rights of Iraq and the Arab people, and pulls out the remnants of its invading troops from the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. At this time, the Zionists will also leave the usurped land of Palestine.

The paper explains that the chief objective behind our preparations and the readiness of Iraq's Army for fighting is to destroy and to kill what we can of the invading foreign forces. We will, with God's help, make the battlefield a place for a real massacre for them, and we will not give them the opportunity to remove their dead from the pools of blood in which they will float.

AL-QADISIYAH points out that Iraq's heroic Army has been armed with all weapons of destruction in addition to faith and that it relies on a huge arsenal of weapons and hardware while carrying out its heroic war operations. Furthermore, in waging the protracted [tawilah] mother of battles, Iraq's Army relies on inexhaustible men in striking at the treacherous invaders with all strength, faith, wrath, and revenge until achieving their goal of making the U.S. aggression and its tools disintegrate and scatter on Iraq's borders and on the sand of Arab desert.

The paper stresses that Bush might imagine, though for a moment, that his forces are capable of achieving victory. To dissipate this delusion, however, we would like to reiterate an established eternal fact—Iraq's leadership, Army, and people will not relinquish their country from Zakhu to Kuwait. This has been pointed out unequivocally by President leader Saddam Husayn during his recent interview with the U.S. television network. And for the sake of this noble legitimate objective as recognized by the whole world except for the United States and its allies and their traitors, we will use all force and arms in our possession, beginning with the knife and bullets, arms of annihilation, and ending with the weapons of mass destruction because nothing deserves to live after Iraq.

The paper concludes its editorial saying that Iraq's victory will be achieved with our hands. Iraq's valiant Army has begun its first step along the road of victory which is in the conscience and hands of our fighters, and we hear the shouts of victory in our hearts. We will accept nothing other than victory, because it is the sole reality which is bound to guarantee our people's life and the honor and dignity of Iraq and the Arab nation. Anything other than that will be capitulation, which we will never accept and never even consider.

Syrian Public Urged To Revolt, Side With Iraq

NC0202012991 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Jan 91 p 8

[Article by Nasif 'Awwad: "Come On, Damascus!!"]

[Text] Come on, Damascus, O throbbing heart of Arabism. Where are your heartbeats? Has the blood dried up in your veins, like water in the Barada River? Has that which uprooted the poplar trees from your al-Ghutah also uprooted your manliness, chivalry, and Arabism along with them?

More than 10 days have passed, and Baghdad alone, O Damascus, is receiving the lava of evil that is pouring down on it day and night. Nevertheless, not a single palm tree bent or nerve quivered while you sank into a silence graver than that of death.

Come on, Damascus, O throbbing heart of Arabism. Have men departed you, or is it fear which continues to dominate you? Even slaves have their revolutions, so what is holding you back? Even slaves have their revolutions, so what has happened to you, O Damascus? Glory and every free honorable Arab are bewailing you. Will your sons not bewail you?

We do not ask you, O Damascus, to avenge Baghdad; Baghdad is steadfast, lofty, and triumphant, God willing, with the struggle of its people, the manliness of its fighters, the bravery and wisdom of its leader, and its adherence to the principles which originally stemmed from you. Avenge yourself, history, and rectify that which has become a subject of ridicule.

Rebel, O Damascus. Patience has run out, and all that might be inflicted on you by the grandsons of Genghis Khan is much easier than your present humiliation and ignominy.

This is the time of glory, O Damascus, so look for your share in it rather than hanker for the stolen oil wealth. This wealth is not for you and will not be invested in your territory, but in foreign banks under the account of the Mamelukes ruling over you.

We, O Damascus, are aware of the magnitude of the tragedy you are living. What your people whisper in closed homes, in markets far away from the eyes of spies, and in barracks reaches us. So, move from whispers to public words, and then to action. Time is running out, and we find it hard to see you take no share of glory.

Come on, Damascus, O throbbing heart of Arabism. Be the way we have known you, and demonstrate some loyalty to your soil, which comprises some of the best heroes of this nation like Khalid Bin-al-Walid, Salah-al-Din al-Ayyubi, Yusuf al-'Azmah, Ibrahim Hananu, Sultan al-Atrash, and Salih al-'Ali.

Come on, Damascus, it is the time of Arab glory. What can you tell history, O oldest city in history, about the deadly silence shrouding you? What will you leave behind to your sons by this poor silence other than humiliation, disgrace, and dishonor?

We do not want you to go to the aid of Baghdad, O Damascus; Baghdad has God, who protects it, and men who safeguard it. But we do not wish you humiliation and dishonor. We want you, O Damascus, to get your share in the coming Arab glory, which you preached but whose banner you failed to uphold, by breaking this deadly silence, standing by the side of Baghdad, and holding with it the mast of the banner.

Sorry, O Damascus, I did not mean to be rough toward you, but the great love we entertain for you obliges us to frankly express our feelings to you and remind you of what befits you.

Victory is coming, O Damascus, from Baghdad of glory and Arabism...from Baghdad, the roaring heart of Arabism. So, do not stay away.

Talk Extols Nation's Military Capabilities

NC0202233191 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 2020 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] In the third week of the great confrontation, Iraq is embarking on its jihad advance, penetrating the front of infidelity to a depth of 20 km and destroying the invasion's and agents' forces with all the determination of those who believe in their God, homeland, and their objectives of defending the homeland and exterminating the invaders, who are desecrating the land of the Arabs' sanctities—the land of the Ka'bah, the Prophet's tomb, and the site of revelation.

From the first days of the aggression, the faithful multitude became assured that Iraq was holding fast and achieving victory in the confrontation's initial phase. Indeed, the days passed, and thousands of U.S. air raids failed to undermine Iraq's will and capability. The invaders were sure that the plan for a blitzkrieg, which aimed to deprive Iraq of its strength and will through aerial and missile attacks, had failed miserably because Iraq's capability, leadership, forces, will, and firmness remained solid and able to act in accordance with a plan for battle that did not disregard the enemies' strength and the areas in which they were superior.

The phases of the mother of battles were arranged with an accurate knowledge of the enemy's goals and total confidence in the Iraqi individual, who believes in his struggling and historic leadership, goals, and abilities.

Iraq believed in victory since the challenge began, when successive conspiracies were carried out against it since the beginning of last year. Whenever Iraq's vigilance and principled firmness thwarted one conspiracy, its belief in victory was enhanced, just as its vigilance and firmness rose to new heights. Throughout all those conspiracies which followed each other from the spy Bazoft to the spy Croesus [amir of Kuwait], Iraq knew that the major players, led by the United States, would bring all their capabilities of evil to perpetrate aggression in the wake of conspiracy. It had faith in its ability to achieve victory, because right was on its side, and because it had a strategic depth represented by all Arabs and Muslims.

The issue, as the leader of the faithful multitude, the mujahid Saddam Husayn, stated in his recent CNN interview, is not about who has more weapons, but who will be defeated, who will not be defeated, who has the devil on his side, and who has God on his side. Who crossed thousands of kilometers to come to whose lands? Who came to occupy the sanctities of others? It is exactly this which creates a big difference between a pilot who perpetrates aggression to kill children and between the Iraqi ground defense forces, whose will is unshaken.

The battle began, and they did not win the first round, although the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic enemy used all its strength and superiority. The invaders who spoke of a battle that would last for hours or days must begin facing the facts—the facts of the long war that will crush them as invading forces and puppet regimes. The land war that the enemies tried to avoid is being imposed on them despite the fact that the liar Bush used the entire U.S. war machine so that his invading forces would not suffer injuries—as he earlier promised—in their fight against the Iraqi forces, who possess all the prerequisites of victory.

Iraq's Army and people are defending homeland and sovereignty and are struggling with the utmost patience, steadfastness, and sacrifice to liberate Palestine, Jerusalem, and the sanctities so that the Arabs may have a free will and possess their own wealth for the sake of dignity and progress. They are the vanguard of the multitude that has faith in God. Those who have God on their side will not be defeated, as emphasized by the leader of the faithful multitude, Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqi Armed Forces have never been so determined since their establishment and in all the difficult circumstances they have experienced. With this determination, faith, and will, and with the unity and the experienced and historic quality of their political and military leadership, the Iraqis will fight endlessly until right triumphs over falsehood. There is no place in Iraq for the darkness which the U.S. Administration wants to pervade Iraqis' minds, hearts, and consciences. Iraq's and its leader's confidence in victory is total and firm. There is not even a millionth of a doubt about it. This is true with regard to faith, will, and determination.

As for capability, it is a comprehensive capability and is as great as the Iraqi people who are waging the battle. It is a multifaceted capability with all the bountiful offerings of the strugglers of the military industries from the bullet to the al-Husayn missile and its brother, al-'Abbas, which can carry nuclear, chemical, and biological warheads.

If the first part of the battle has been won by Iraq with patience, prudence, and accurate calculations, the remaining parts will bring about certain victory since weapons equal to the weapons our enemy directs at us will be used. Victory is the inevitable result of the mother of battles. It is a victory for Iraq, the Arabs, and the Muslims, and for all the people who see Iraq's victory over the American enemy as a victory over the dullest bludgeon in the world.

With the advance and the feats of the corps of the faithful, the Arabs' voices rise, calling on the enemies to leave the Arabs' land, holy places, Jerusalem, Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. There is no place for the invaders and the agents on Arab land when the sun of victory has risen from Iraq—a victory whose pages are being recorded by the Iraqis, who possess all its requisites and conditions in terms of faith, capability, leadership, and determination, which gush forth to destroy all the invaders' concentrations, the dens of evil in Tel Aviv, and the capital of the Al Sa'ud, the center of aggression and conspiracies. It is the mother of battles, the battle of all the Arabs and the Muslims. It is the victory of all poor and honest people. This will be a historic and certain victory, God willing.

More Missile Attacks on 'Aggressors' Promised

NC0302190591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1544 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Greetings to the glorious men of our missile force who are pounding the dens of [word indistinct] and racist occupation in Tel Aviv and elsewhere. Pride and victory to our men who are pounding the infidels and scoundrel agents in Riyadh and elsewhere. Here and there, evil, infidelity, rancor, and debauchery are equal. Did not war criminal Bush and his administration threaten to destroy the power of great Iraq to safeguard the occupying Zionist entity before Kuwait was restored to her motherland ? Was it not criminal Fahd who opened the land of Islam and prophecy to the forces of invasion and occupation to defend the Zionist entity and the throne of sedition, treason, and [word indistinct] in Riyadh? Is not that alone sufficient to make the rage of the great al-Husayn missiles rain on the heads of the occupying usurpers in Tel Aviv and those of the shameless agents at the same time?

Both sides, along with war criminal Bush and his allies, thought that the Arabs would surrender as soon as their planes launched raids to kill children and women and to destroy houses, hospitals, places of worship, and cultural sites. However, they missed the point when they forgot that they were confronting heroic Iraq—the free bastion of the Arabs and Muslims. Iraq has a free, solid will, a huge, experienced army, and a steadfast people who never yield or accept humiliation. They are confronting Iraq under its unique leader, who unfailingly led the Iraqis, Arabs, Muslims, and all good people toward victory. Our symbol and struggling leader has told them: If aggression takes place, painful strikes will be dealt to the Zionist entity [words indistinct]. This is because this artificial occupying entity is the prime stimulator of aggression and a direct partner to it. Our struggler leader has fulfilled his promise and accompanied words by deeds.

The great al-Husayn missiles will continue to pound the heads of the aggressors to the end of the great mother of battles, in which we will emerge victorious, God willing. The banner of pride and faith will continue to wave victoriously until Jerusalem is liberated and the heads of atheism, falsehood, shame, and debauchery fall.

U.S. Actions Said 'Violation' of UN Resolution

NC0302165791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression came as no surprise to Iraq and its historic leadership, neither in its timing or the methods used to carry it out or to cover for it nor in its short- and long-term objectives and targets.

In today's editorial entitled: "We Will Triumph and Defeat the U.S. Satan," the paper recalls the points and objective statements made by President Saddam Husayn during the Amman quadripartite summit in February [1990], which contained a thorough and early reading into the mind of the U.S. Satan, which had been unleashed and had readied itself to commit aggression, start wars, and return to the colonialist era using new methods and pretexts.

The paper adds that President Saddam Husayn warned of the effects and consequences that the Arab nation would face at the heart of its vital causes and inalienable rights as a result of the United States's unconstrained supremacy as a superpower, after the Soviet Union quit the international scene to concentrate on its domestic problems and crises. This gave the U.S. Satan a golden opportunity to satisfy its appetite for hegemony over the world's destiny and wealth and for enslaving peoples and nations.

The paper notes the well-known methods used by Bush to snatch hostile resolutions from the Security Council in flagrant and open violation of international laws, in addition to the hypocrisy, deception, the carrot and stick policy, and the bribery used to cover up the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq under the claim to be defending international law, Security Council resolutions, and what is falsely and misleadingly called international legitimacy.

The paper emphasizes that the criminal U.S. Administration, which succeeded in its aggressive scheme, is not ready to listen to any voice that objects to the way the United States is conducting its hostile war against Iraq, particularly in terms of the U.S. violation of the Security Council resolution and its implementation of objectives not stipulated under the ill-famed Resolution 678.

The paper concludes by saying that the promised day when the faithful group led by steadfast Iraq will break the horns and claws of the U.S. Satan in the mother of battles is not far off. History, the paper adds, will record in bold letters the epic of the Iraqis and their fortitude in battle.

Preparations Said To 'Guarantee' Victory

NC0302151791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that almost three weeks have passed since the beginning of the aggression against Iraq. During these three weeks, Iraq has devoted only a small portion of its capabilities to the battle for which it has prepared.

In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says [words indistinct] mother of battles to seize its historic opportunity for a free and secure life. It adds that no one should imagine that Iraq has exhausted the factors that ensure victory. Iraq's preparations will guarantee that it will crush the aggression, smash the heads of the aggressors, and seize victory from the claws of the evildoers.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that the U.S. President and the states implementing his policy have planned their aggressive strategy and imagined its results in light of what they know about some Arab parties whom they have dealt with in the past. Bush and these states falsely believed that Iraq would collapse once they directed their intensive and savage air strikes at Iraqi installations, residential areas, and vital utilities.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the past few days are sufficient to show them an Iraq different from what they imagined. Their alliance has appeared in the worst light because of its methods full of hatred for mankind. The duplicity of the parties in this alliance with respect to human rights and international principles has also been exposed.

U.S. Said Aiming To Stop Nation's Progress

NC0302144891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1223 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, the criminals Bush and his accomplices claim that their missiles and the bombs their planes drop on Iraq do not hit populated areas. This is what they want the world and the nations that are at the mercy of the mass media to believe. But their scandal and the truth of their actions have become clear [words indistinct]. What is important is that the Iraqi people have learned the facts, having seen the crime with their own eyes, and now know about the dirty plot concocted to obstruct their lives and stop its scientific and technological progress.

Yes, the Iraqi people now know the type of civilization and new world order that the President of the United States of America wants to bring to our Arab region and the (?world). Their (?soldiers) will pay dearly for their aggression against the people and the institutions they built with their sweat and money. The target will not be confined this time to the soldiers of the United States, the mercenaries of its allies, or its collaborators in the holy lands in the Arabian Peninsula. The interests of the United States everywhere in the world will also be the target. Then the masters of the White House and their affiliated media cannot say that this is terrorism which they warn their citizens and managers of their companies against. This is a legitimate act [words indistinct] now that Arab and Muslim strugglers have become convinced that American terrorism [words indistinct].

There is a difference between terrorism and struggle. All free men and their [word indistinct] organizations throughout the world know that the hour of their militant action to (?destroy) U.S. interests everywhere has struck so long as the United States has forced [words indistinct]. And the result will be a splendid victory, God willing, through which the nations of the world will rid themselves of imperialist hegemony and all (?frivolity) which was planted by its media throughout the world. Thus, it has tarnished human life and marred human (?relations) and the image of life created by God.

Paper Predicts 'Certain Victory' in Ground Battle

NC0302122991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—AL-'IRAQ expresses its confidence that the ground battle about which the United States and its allies have begun to talk will result in a certain victory for the Iraqi troops.

In its editorial today, the paper says its confidence derives from the combat experience the Iraqi Army gained in eight years of battle. This factor will ensure that the Army is the winner in such a confrontation.

The paper says this conclusion can be drawn from an analysis of the factors influencing the outcome of the war and a comparison of the strategies used by two sides in the military struggle. Iraq, the paper recalls, has an army hardened by war and seasoned by confrontation, an army with experience in combat and defense.

AL-'IRAQ says that one factor that tips the balance in favor of the Iraqi Army in ground battles is its quantitative advantage. In addition, the paper says, the Iraqi fighter is defending a just cause and is fighting for a noble goal, while the forces of aggression have no just cause and no noble goal to boost their morale in drawn-out battle.

The paper mentions one decisive and crucial component of victory in any military confrontation, namely, the management of battle. The paper says: When we underline the inevitability of Iraq's victory, we are not governed by wishful thinking. We arrive at such a conclusion with confidence and absolute faith that the correct management of the battle will keep the odds in Iraq's favor. This is because the commander of the battle has the strategic perception and the ability to use a comprehensive strategy in a way that ensures that victory is inevitable. The commander of the battle has a sound vision of the way to manage the battle and a great ability to employ a comprehensive strategy, and not just military strategy, in the service of that great cause. This will enable the Iraqi forces to achieve victory over the aggressive forces.

Bush Accused of 'Running Away' From Land Battle

NC0302125491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1029 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brother listeners: Why is George Bush touring military bases and installations, particularly in the southeastern United States? Why is he rushing to meet with the families of the Americans embroiled in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab Gulf? Why did he hurry to North Carolina to raise morale among the people there, as he himself admitted? Why is he pleading for Americans to support and show enthusiasm for the war he has launched against Iraq? Why does he fail to confront the question that faces him wherever he goes? Does he think that denying the occurrence of any land battles will reassure worried Americans?

[Words indistinct] the ground clash to expose Bush who [words indistinct] and boasts about his aircraft and missiles. Yes, we will expose Bush, who has already been exposed, and tell him that he is a coward who is running away from a (?land battle) and from any dealing with the lions of the desert [words indistinct] and facing men.

He speaks with unprecedented stupidity about how a large-scale ground offensive will begin only when he decides the time is right and how he will launch the offensive according to a timetable he will draw up. Does Bush believe that his false boasting can conceal the panic gripping his heart? Does he believe he can convince himself and his listeners [words indistinct]? If he is attempting to conceal any offensive or reckless attempt, does he believe that the Iraqis will pay any attention to him or base their calculations on his utterances?

George Bush is deluding himself [words indistinct] from place to place [words indistinct] taking off and encouraging himself to no avail. He is deluding himself if he thinks he can do anything that will succeed in deceiving the Iraqis. He is deluding himself if he believes that his timetable [words indistinct] the smallest child in Iraq.

We challenge him and confront him with with the facts. There is a great difference between men governed by arrogance and men governed by faith and heroism. If Bush's talk is intended to deceive or to serve any similar purpose, he should recognize that he has already been defeated.

As we have said, he is evading a one-on-one confrontation with our forces. [words indistinct] economic, scientific, and cultural installations and residential areas. He has been defeated since the first day of the war, and as our leader said, he has been defeated from the moment he made his decision.

Talk Questions Whether Air Strikes Can Win War

NC0302150891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1233 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, can the aircraft sent by the U.S.-Zionist alliance win a war, kill a people, and subjugate a nation's will? Can a battle directed from far above in the sky occupy one inch of territory? How long will U.S. and allied Zionist planes continue to raid Baghdad and other Iraqi governorates and villages without achieving even a minimum of their objectives to control territory and to make a dent in the heroic Iraqi will? Is it possible for the B-52's, which the U.S. President has brought from the four corners of the earth, to undermine the resolve of the men stationed on the combat lines on the forward front? The answer to all these questions is that it is not possible.

The condition of the Iraqis in the third week of aggression is the best proof of the outcome of the aggression. [words indistinct] and faces that are reassured of victory and confident of the future. Great hopes are pinned on the people's ability to confront the aggression's plans and evil designs.

If the alliance of evil ones has so far succeeded in avoiding a decisive confrontation on the battlefield south of Iraqi territory, this confrontation will undoubtedly come. The infidel horde will then discover how all the squadrons of ravens they sent into the skies of Iraq and the thousands of bombs they dropped on [word indistinct] homes have not weakened the men's resolve and will not affect their determination to teach their enemy the lesson that he rightly deserves for the crimes that his sinful hands have perpetrated against our people and humanity.

The criminal Bush and his allies will discover that theoretical calculations are different from hard facts and that the [word indistinct] Iraqi capability will, at the appropriate moment, (?fall) as lava fire and lightning bolts on the enemies' heads in a manner that surpasses in horror and destructiveness anything they have seen so far.

When Bush and his allies [words indistinct] see the cascades of blood erupting from the heads of their mercenaries and hired [word indistinct], they will be convinced that Iraq's promises that it would make the United States swim in its own blood if it attacked Iraq were not mere propaganda and the coffins [words indistinct] will only be the beginning that the Americans will have to wait [words indistinct].

Al-Khafji Battle Called Part of 'War Strategy'

NC0402121291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that the Iraqi mujahidin sent an unequivocal message to the enemies, including Fahd, in the al-Khafji battle and the earlier battles along the full extent of the border with the enemy.

In its editorial today, the paper says that only two weeks after the fighting began, the confrontation in the city of al-Khafji taught a lesson to those whose claims have been proven to be illusory.

The paper adds that as part of our war strategy, we are planning to make the war drag on to upset the schedule set by the enemies, who mistakenly believed they could achieve the desired outcome in a matter of few days without sustaining losses in personnel and equipment. Under this stategy, a clash with their land forces and the depletion of their personnel and equipment will deal a fatal blow to the forces of injustice and tyranny, especially when we consider the losses we are inflicting on their air forces.

The paper adds that after those despicable people hid in the furthest reaches of the desert of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], far away from the contact lines of the confrontation, the armored and mechanized forces, the infantry, the commandos, and the shock troops had to launch forays against them.

The paper concludes by saying that the Iraqis are capable of storming their territory and their hideouts and carrying out the activities which are necessary for the valiant confrontation in the appropriate battle arenas.

Paper Claims Army Holds 'Upper Hand' in Battle

NC0402104291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Feb (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has asserted that, as the Iraqi Army and people await and prepare for the land confrontation, they grow more confident and assured about victory.

In its editorial today, the paper says that unjust and cowardly Western-American barbarism has not succeeded in hampering Iraqi war efforts. The paper adds that after Iraq discovered the magnitude of the imperialist-colonialist conspiracy many years ago, it started preparing alternatives and capabilities to enable it to face the worst scenarios of U.S.-Western-Zionist aggression and to perpetuate and safeguard its military and economic power.

The paper stresses that the U.S. invaders' miserable wager on exhausting Iraq collapsed before the legendary steadfastness of our Armed Forces, as the West itself has acknowledged. The paper adds that the picture is absolutely clear, both as regards the overall confrontation and in particular as regards the chapter on land war.

The paper adds that Iraq has the upper hand in conducting the battle, not in terms of weaponry but in terms of determination to achieve victory. The paper asserts that this determination is based on absolute faith and an iron will to pursue the mother of battles until the end, and until its comprehensive objectives are achieved.

Talk Decries U.S. Politicians' 'Deceit'

NC0402111591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0916 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] American politicians are cunning and sly and usually act as though no one has the right to respond or comment. As they intensify their air raids against Iraqi cities, villages, installations, and other facilities, they believe that this is only part of the process of the aggression they have launched under the pretext of implementing the Security Council resolutions against Iraq. They say that the aggression will not target residential areas or kill women, children, and old people. The world knows, however, what America seeks from its war against Iraq. What it wants is not the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, which did not grant it the personal authorization to direct the war against Iraq, but to implement its aggressive policy based on destroying peoples' resources in order to dominate them.

At a time when Bush is saying that his war is not against the Iraqi people, the number of air raids against Iraqi cities and villages is increasing, and many of our sons are being martyred. At a time when Bush and American politicians have ascertained that Iraq has not yet used its full military capabilities in the showdown, their clamor and arguments that Iraq is still strong and has not yet fully responded to the aggression fills the airwaves and other news media. One example is the CNN television's interview with President Saddam Husayn. This interview, particularly his excellency's statement about the possibility of equipping Iraqi missiles with chemical, biological, and nuclear warheads, scared the White House. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that the United States is very concerned about this matter. The United States is concerned about this issue, but it finds nothing worrying in the destruction of residential areas and the murder of Iraqi people in cities and villages by its aircraft and that of its allies. The White House politicians are even pleased with the criminal acts their aircraft have committed against our steadfast Iraqi people. This is the slyness, deception, and baseness of American politicains and their vile allies. Their use of double standards is well known. They have been enemies of struggling peoples for a long time. They will find that their slyness, deceit, and hollow statements will be useless when the hour strikes and the real showdown begins on the battlefront between the forces of right and the forces of wrong, which will, with God's help, suffer an inevitable defeat.

SAIRI Leader Urges Efforts To End War

LD0102201891 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent this evening, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid Muhammad Baqir Hakim, the head of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], expressed his gratitude to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, for his declaration of 1 February as the day of sympathy with the oppressed nation of Iraq, and he praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian efforts in sending food and medicine to Iraq. He also called on all countries and international organizations to make every effort to stop this ruinous war, as well as to send food and medical aid to Iraq.

In the interview, the head of SAIRI described the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the presence of the multinational forces in the region as unacceptable and illegitimate. He said: Saddam's reigme and western colonialist forces wish to dominate nations. We therefore believe that this war is an unjust war and has no legitimacy and that the only goal of the two sides is the destruction of the Muslim Iraqi nation. He added: The United States wants to destroy all the Iraqi nation's resources and wealth with the excuse of liberating Kuwait. Saddam, for his part, wants to extend his domination throughout the region with the excuse of liberating Palestine.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim also said: We want an immediate cessation of the war, the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, and the departure of multinational forces from the Islamic holy lands. We believe that the people of Iran and the governments of the region must resolve this issue with reliance on political-military [as heard] resources.

Kurdish Group Urges Forces 'Be Ready To Settle'

PM0102172391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Feb 91 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Kurdistan Islamic Movement Statement Calls on Army To Overthrow Saddam and Calls for Takeover of Iraqi Embassies Abroad"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Kurdistan Islamic Movement, one of the Kurdistan Front factions, has issued a political statement renewing its call for the Iraqi Army to take the initiative and topple Saddam and his corrupt clique and save what is left of the Iraqi people and their vital institutions from ruin and destruction. The movement defined its position on the Gulf developments as follows:

1. We are pained by what has happened and is happening in Iraq and the Gulf, but at the same time we believe that the existence of Saddam and his atheist party is more dangerous than the war and more harmful to Iraq and the Islamic nation in every respect, for he spares no one. The continuation of his regime is unacceptable at any price.

2. All the catastrophes and regrettable incidents—from the killing of religious scholars, young people, and intellectuals to the eviction of the Kurds, the confiscation of their assets and property, the withdrawal of their citizenship, and the displacement of their families, to the scorching and destruction of Kurdistan, the displacement and murder of thousands of its people, and the deportation of hundreds of thousands of families to unknown destinations, to the burning of villages, towns, and thousands of kilometers of farms and orchards in Kurdistan and Iraq, to the murder of thousands of Egyptians, to the occupation of Kuwait and murder and displacement of its people and looting of their wealth and destruction of their country, to the pollution of the seas and destruction of the life in them—the responsibility for all these crimes falls first on Saddam and his corrupt regime and then on his allies and supporters.

3. As regards treachery by those who hope to interfere in Iraqi and Gulf affairs in the future after Saddam's downfall, the people who have struggled for scores of years will accept no injustice or aggression. The days of occupation and imperialism are gone forever and the fate of Saddam, Ceausescu, Siad Barre, and the Afghan ruler will be a lesson to all arrogant tyrants. The people of Saladin will lie in wait for every sinful tyrant wherever he may be and whatever the pretext.

4. We urge all forces of liberation in Kurdistan to stand united as brothers and to be prepared and then wait until the situation becomes clear, and to do that very calmly and cautiously without getting embroiled with the warring forces in the region, and to be ready to settle the situation in favor of the peaceful Muslim people.

5. We call on all the opposition factions and the revolutionaries to meet immediately and confer with a view to taking over Iraqi embassies abroad and expelling Saddam's agents from them until a free, independent, and neutral government is formed to establish justice, give people their rights, respect neighborhood rights, operate through law and order, and maintain security and peace.

6. The first and most important step will be to start the reconstruction of Kurdistan, repatriation of the evacuees and deportees and restoration of their assets and properties. The services of those who have been expelled or dismissed by the unjust and spiteful Ba'thist regime in Baghdad will be considered as having continued.

7. Our front forces have advanced to take up their positions in Kurdistan, awaiting further orders. We call on the officers, soldiers, and other members of the Armed Forces to take up their arms and join their brothers in the liberation forces.

MK Rehav'am Ze'evi To Be Appointed Minister

Agreement With Moledet Signed

TA0102194191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] At noon today Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir signed a coalition agreement with the Moledet faction, which he will present to the cabinet on Sunday. According to the agreement, Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi will be appointed minister without portfolio and member of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. The inclusion of MK Ze'evi in the government has aroused acute reactions in the opposition. Within the cabinet and the Likud, also, there are some who are unhappy about the move. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports from the studio:

This time the coalition agreement was signed only by the prime minister on behalf of the Likud and by Rehav'am Ze'evi on behalf of Moledet. Moledet is joining the coalition according to this government's basic guidelines. Moledet retains the right to voice its reservations about the Camp David Accords and holding elections among the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. However, those reservations—if voiced—would not be binding on the government and the coalition.

As soon as he joins the government, Rehav'am Ze'evi will prepare to set up a special team for constant professional advise on Israel's national security, which the prime minister will begin using soon. MK Ze'evi will also be a member of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. Not all Likud ministers are happy about the inclusion of MK Ze'evi in the cabinet, but the prime minister's position will determine the outcome in the cabinet.

Officials in the prime minister's bureau said today that the door for the inclusion of MK Ze'evi in the government had always been open, and the Likud had even proposed him for the post of minister of ecology and environmental protection. As soon as Ze'evi withdrew his conditions—to be assigned the post of defense minister or police affairs minister—the obstacles for his inclusion in the government were removed. It should be pointed out that Ze'evi's inclusion in the government cannot change its policy. The government is opposed to the transfer of Arabs, and its security and foreign policy are constant, the same officials noted.

Here is how the prime minister explained the move to our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin:

[Begin Shamir recording] The government is based on a coalition made up of parties holding different positions on current issues and other general questions concerning the State of Israel and its people. The position of the majority is what counts, and the Likud constitutes the majority in the government. The Likud determines the government's policy, of course, with the approval of all other members of the coalition, which usually join the government's official position. [end recording]

The negotiations with Moledet have been going on for several months. Minister Moshe Nisim consolidated the current move in a bid to broaden the coalition's support base, which will henceforth total 61 MK's. It will now be easier for the government to pass the religious legislation it undertook to enact in the Knesset, seeing that not all members of the coalition approve of those laws. Moledet will be able to prevent misunderstanding and embarrassing situations when tensions mount in the coalition.

This is how MK Rehav'am Ze'evi explains his joining of the coalition:

[Begin Ze'evi recording] As soon as the war is over, we will be entering a tough struggle over what you call territories and what we call the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; over their future, whether they are part of Eretz Yisra'el or they are, God forbid, handed over to foreign rule. We want to be part of that struggle. We have always wanted to have an influence. We are at war now, and we can no longer put this off. The war is not being waged just on the Kuwait-Iraq border, and it is not about missiles falling on our defenseless cities. The war will begin the day after the war, when the real and big struggle over the future of Eretz Yisra'el starts. That is why we want to be in, to exert our influence. [end recording]

The opposition's reaction to the prime minister's latest move is harsh. The Citizens Rights Movement says: This is a racist move at a time when moderation is called for. MK Hagay Marom of the Labor Party will submit an urgent motion to the Knesset's agenda saying: The inclusion of Moledet, which advocates the transfer of Arabs, jeopardizes the government's sanity. MK Shahal of the Labor Party says: This is a blow to the people's morale. MK Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM [United Workers Party] says: A group of adventurers are driving us into a political adventure which may involve a transfer. Shinuy regards the move as evidence of the government's imbalance.

Among those welcoming the move are Tzomet, Tehiya, the Likud's Eretz Yisra'el Front, and Agudat Yisra'el. Nevertheless, the Likud has mobilized all its MK's for Monday, when the motion is to be submitted to the Knesset for a vote.

Denies Supporting 'Coercive Transfer'

TA0302074691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0635 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Moledet Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Good morning, Knesset Member [MK] Ze'evi.

[Ze'evi] A very good morning to you.

[Shilon] Your joining the government is causing quite a ruckus in the country. What is your reaction?

[Ze'evi] I am not enjoying it, but neither am I surprised.

[Shilon] Why did you initiate this move?

[Ze'evi] I did not initiate it; I responded to an initiative.

[Shilon] Whose?

[Ze'evi] The Likud's, which is the main and leading component of the government coalition. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] At the beginning of this war, you voiced rather harsh criticism of the government, if I am not mistaken.

[Ze'evi] Not only at the beginning of the war. I did so throughout the war.

[Shilon] How will you be able to sit with the government, then?

[Ze'evi] Is this a novelty in political life for a man to fight for his views, try to have some influence, and perhaps see his views accepted? [passage omitted]

[Shilon] At the beginning of the war, you suggested that this is the right time to implement the concept of transfer [of Arabs from the territories to Arab countries], which you have always supported. Will you try to lead your cabinet colleagues toward that goal?

[Ze'evi] I heard you make that statement on the radio this morning, but it is not true. You will find that I have not said such a thing anywhere. What I did say was that if the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el harm us in any operational way, if they hamper our life by launching a total war, as their leaders—mainly Yasir 'Arafat—have urged them to do, they will be made to realize that in such a case, they will be expelled. However, I have never suggested that we expel people in any other way. The Moledet doctrine has never included the word expulsion. On the other hand, the MAPAI [Labor Party's precursor] party history contains deportations. It was in the Labor Party [to which MK Ze'evi belonged in the past] that I learned about the concept of forcible transfer. Moledet, however, has never supported coercive transfer; it has been in favor of voluntary transfer, or transfer by consent. [passage omitted]

Government Policy To Not Change

TA0302081691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0745 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Report by Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] The following is a statement issued this morning by the prime minister's bureau in the wake of the wave of negative reactions to Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi joining the cabinet. Critical reactions have come from all the left-wing parties as well as the Likud itself, although in that party, no one has spoken openly in their own name. In addition, this morning's newspapers are carrying critical editorials. In response, the prime minister's bureau reiterated its statement, saying that government policy will not change with the arrival of MK Ze'evi in the cabinet.

Yosi Ahime'ir, the prime minister's bureau director, told us a short while ago: Transfer has not been and will not be part of government policy; there is no difference between the Shamir government established in June 1990 and the government that will exist after MK Rehav'am Ze'evi joins it.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau have said that while it is true Gandhi [Ze'evi's nickname] holds certain views, Agudat Yisra'el favors a concept according to which the State of Israel should be more religious in nature. Everyone has ideas, but government policy is the determining factor, and government policy does not speak of transfer. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves Ze'evi Appointment 3 Feb

TA0302115891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] The cabinet a short time ago approved the appointment of Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi as a member of the government. On the line from the Prime Minister's Office is Jack Katzenell:

The cabinet vote took place a short while ago. According to the decision, [Reserve] General Ze'evi now becomes a minister without portfolio and a member of the Ministerial Defense Committee. As you may recall, he dropped his demands to be appointed minister of police, and that was how the present deal between the Likud and between General Ze'evi's party, Moledet, was possible.

At this morning's vote, some of the Likud ministers were opposed to Ze'evi's admission to the cabinet. Those who voted against were: Foreign Minister David Levi; Health Minister Ehud Olmert; and the minister of justice, Dan Meridor. Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who was also not very happy with it, abstained.

[Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 3 February reports that the ministers who abstained were "Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i." The report adds that "although Education Minister Zvulun Hammer from the National Religious Party voted for the appointment, he moved to clarify that Ze'evi's inclusion does not raise the issue of transfer on the cabinet's agenda. He further requested that the cabinet abstain from holding future discussions on the issue. The prime minister accepted the requests."]

This is a rather unusual cabinet meeting. A short while ago, the ministers dispersed for a break, but they are coming back later to continue the meeting in the afternoon. Usually, the cabinet meeting is over by about this time. The reason is that the cabinet is discussing the additional budget which Defense Minister Arens is demanding on account of the expense which the Defense Ministry has incurred due to the Gulf war, mainly keeping the Air Force on a very, very high state of alert and, of course, all the expenses which have to do with the civil defense: gas masks and so on. That will continue this afternoon.

Also, we have learned that, as a result of this cabinet meeting and the outcome of the decisions in it, Israel will discuss additional aid from the United States. [Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew at 1012 GMT on 3 February, in an interim report, adds that the aid to be requested of the United States will be "in excess of $100 million."]

HA'ARETZ Opposes Appointment

TA0302150691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Feb 91 p B1

[Editorial: "There Is No Room For Him in the Government"]

[Text] The prime minister described the possibility of Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi joining the government as a step toward expanding the coalition base in the Knesset. Yitzhaq Shamir could say that the door has been open to Ze'evi ever since the discussions on the establishment of the government have started, and that this time, too, he rejected Ze'evi's demand to be given control over the Shin Bet or the Police Affairs Ministry. On the face of it, the novelty is Ze'evi's own behavior. He turned down the proposal to take the Ecology and Environmental Ministry, and is willing to be a minister without portfolio and a member of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. Shamir's question was, roughly—what is all the excitement about?

The answer to this question is that the value of expanding the parliamentary majority of the coalition to 66 members is marginal, but a coalition agreement between the Likud and the Moledet Movement significantly changes the government's political character. As the head of the Likud, Shamir now has to explain why he decided to bring into his government a person who represents the extreme end of the right-wing camp, at this time.

Ze'evi's justifications to his followers could be that he sees it as his duty to strengthen the camp of those favoring Greater Israel in the government. He is probably not mistaken in assuming that not all the Likud representatives in the government are as determined in their adherence to the principle of the wholeness of Israel as they were before Saddam Husayn's missiles hit the Dan district without the settlers of Elon More and Qarne Shomron being able to stop them.

Nevertheless, the prime minister must realize today that the chances of Israel holding on to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, after the defeat the U.S. and the allied forces are preparing for Saddam Husayn, are almost zilch. Ze'evi's presence in government will change nothing in this evaluation. At the same time, his presence could make it very hard for Shamir to continue his efforts to keep Israel out of the war. So far the prime minister has managed to reject the incessant nagging of three ministers—Ari'el Sharon, Yuval Ne'eman, and Refa'el Eytan—to let the Army solve the missile problem without first ensuring operative coordination with the multinational (in fact, American) force.

Ze'evi has never made a secret of his opinion that Israel must take action against Iraq, and he disregards any consideration of the political complexity of the situation. Is Shamir interested in strengthening just this minority, which does not stop charging the line of restraint? The fact that Ze'evi is about to join the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs raises doubts about Shamir's firmness on his policy of not getting Israel into trouble with the United States and its Arab allies. This doubt is a cause for concern.

Ze'evi holds the basic concept according to which Eretz Yisra'el, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, must be cleared of any Arab population. He wants transfer, and it is possible that he hopes that this is within reach, providing that Israel takes part in the war against Iraq. Now that Shamir has decided to add to his cabinet a politician renowned for his evil ideas which deny the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el their right to a homeland, the prime minister has exposed himself to the suspicion that he shares his new ally's views, despite his denials.

The Americans are saying that in their war they want to lay the foundations for a new order in the Middle East. Does Shamir really believe that Israel will be a part of the discussions of this arrangement when the fulfillment of Ze'evi's aspirations would turn the residents of the territories into refugees?

Ze'evi belongs outside the government. All the ministers who have maintained their ability to make political decisions must tell Shamir very clearly that they do not want Ze'evi as a cabinet member. A government that puts on a transfer sticker might get Israel excluded from any international forum which, after the victory over Saddam Husayn, will determine the political shape of the region.

Coalition Discipline for Knesset Vote

TA0402112091 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] The Likud faction executive has decided to impose coalition discipline on all faction members when the proposal on Moledet Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi's participation in the government is submitted to the Knesset tomorrow. This is reported by Yo'el Nir and Dov Gilhar. Coalition discipline will also apply to those ministers who opposed this move in yesterday's cabinet meeting. The Knesset will vote on the issue tomorrow.

Cabinet Approves Supplementary Defense Budget

TA0302142491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] The cabinet decided a short time ago to increase the defense budget by 243 million shekels to cover expenditures during the period leading up to the war and during the war itself. Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman points out that the supplementary defense budget will not increase the state budget deficit. Some of the increase will come at the expense of other activities and the remainder from changing priorities in the defense budget.

Further Reportage on Sari Nusaybah Case

Arens, Meridor Favor Trial

TA0102125291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 91 pp 1, 23

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Justice Minister Dan Meridor are urging the Shin Bet to file charges against Sari Nusaybah. They believe that the intelligence material amassed so far regarding his alleged assistance to the Iraqi intelligence is sufficient for the preparation of a charge sheet.

Arens and Meridor would like the administrative detention period to be reduced and legal proceedings to be launched instead, but so far the issue has encountered difficulties stemming from the intelligence services' fear of exposing their material and sources in court. [passage omitted]

Minister Arens had a passive role in the decision to hold Nusaybah under administrative detention.

Detention Set at Three Months

TA0302120991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpts] The president of the Jerusalem District Court a short while ago confirmed the detention of Sari Nusaybah for a period of three months. Our correspondent 'Ido Shargil gives an update: [passage omitted]

A few minutes ago we learned of the court's ruling. The hearing was held in camera and no details were divulged. What was stated was that there is sufficient evidence against Sari Nusaybah to hold him on administrative detention orders. The Jerusalem District Court president was the one who requested that the period be reduced from six to three months: Since this is wartime, the detention is merely a preventive measure in no way connected to the possibility of filing a charge sheet on espionage charges. Thus, the detention will last three months.

It should be added that Sari Nusaybah has issued a declaration in which he contends: I have no doubt that the true reason for my detention is my public standing and my views as a Palestinian who believes in attaining peace with Israel while recognizing the Palestinian people's rights. Since neither I nor my attorneys were allowed to see the material on which the defense minister's detention request was based, I will naturally be unable to refute the clandestine charges against me, even if they are unfounded. For these reasons, I am accepting the Jerusalem District Court's recommendation to reduce the detention order to three months.

This was Sari Nusaybah's declaration as received by us.

Held for Contacting 'Official Iraqi Element'

TA0302162991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The defense minister's media adviser revealed that the decision to place Sari Nusaybah under administrative detention came after it transpired that he had held contacts with an official Iraqi element and with PLO officials active in gathering intelligence information for Iraq. In the course of these contacts, Nusaybah was asked to deliver information during the war.

During the three-month period of administrative detention, the possibility of submitting a charge sheet against Nusaybah for holding contacts with hostile elements—while not exposing security sources— will be examined.

Two Iraqi Scud Missile Attacks Reported 2 Feb

IDF 'Presumes' One Missile Hit

TA0202191691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Another missile attack on Israel: A siren was sounded in Israel approximately 30 minutes ago. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that a missile fired from west Iraq fell inside Israel. Right now, only those people living in area "E" [He] north of the trans-Samaria highway should still keep their gas masks on and remain in the sealed rooms.

[In a telephone interview on Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1904 GMT on 2 February, IDF Spokesman Nahman Shay releases all people from all the parts of Israel from the sealed rooms and allows them to remove their masks. He reports that beginning tonight "no all-clear signal will be sounded." He says he "presumes" the missile carried a conventional warhead, but will confirm that later. He says the launch involved "one missile." The IDF spokesman further states that there have been no casualities or damage.]

No Damage Reported

TA0202200191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1929 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Spokesman Brigadier General Nahman Shay by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpts] [Qital] Good evening. Let us summarize what happened this evening.

[Shay] Well, one Scud missile was fired at Israel from west Iraq about 75 minutes ago. It did not cause any deaths or damage. Ninety minutes after the incident, we still do not have any information about casualties or damage. The site of the hit and the circumstances of the fall are still being examined at this moment.

Beyond that, this, I believe, is the 10th [as heard] attack. All in all, 30 such missiles have been fired at Israel from the moment the Iraqis began firing missiles at us. The last few launches involved individual missiles. Everyone is free to draw his own conclusions as to the rhyme or reason for this. No doubt, however, thanks to the repeated attacks by the U.S. and Saudi aircraft in west Iraq, the Iraqis are finding it difficult to sustain the deployment they have activated so far. Nevertheless, I would not rule out the possibility that they would try, and perhaps even manage, to fire more than just one missile. Still, the last few times involved only single missiles.

[Qital] Although we do not disclose the precise location of the hit, the last few times the missiles hit area "E," which is largely in Judaea and Samaria—part of it on one side of the Green Line, another on the other side of it. Can you give any explanation for this?

[Shay] Look, the missiles hit the places they can reach. It is that kind of process, and I am giving you a very general answer, I know. I presume that he launches them with the intent of striking, and this is how it happens. We are very careful not to give too much information about this for one obvious reason: We know that the information we release is the most vital information needed to guide the missiles. Everyone in Israel realizes that the location the missile struck today is the place he may or may not direct his next missile, if he has one. That is why we issue very laconic information wherever we can. Sometimes we cannot do that, as was the case in previous attacks. This time we decided to issue pithy and concise reports only. I hope that in this you will hold no grudge against us. We have good reason not to provide specific information beyond what has been reported so far. [passage omitted]

[Qital] Every missile that hits, even if this happens only once every two days, is one too many.

[Shay] True.

[Qital] And yet fewer missiles have been launched. Does this point in any way to the U.S. operations—and I believe I also heard you mention the Saudis' contribution?

[Shay] Indeed. The Saudis, too, are participating in the repeated attacks on the H2 and H3 fields in west Iraq, from where these missiles have systematically been fired. There is no doubt in our minds that the Iraqis' ability to launch this type of surface-to-surface missile from mobile launchers has been affected. We certainly are pleased with the ongoing efforts to hit those launchers and thereby totally silence them. However, the fact remains that here and there they can still make that effort and launch missiles at our territory—as was the case this evening, when the missile was fired and hit the central part of Israel.

[Qital] Nahman Shay, the IDF spokesman, thank you very much.

[Shay] Thank you.

Search for Strike Site Begins

TA0302002691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0000 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] A single Scud missile launched from west Iraq fell on Israeli territory about 20 minutes ago. Searches are now under way to discover where it struck. The Israeli Army spokesman said that until the nature of the hit has been ascertained, only half of the population in area "He" [the central area of Israel, excluding Tel Aviv and Jerusalem] are requested to keep their gas masks on and to remain in the sealed rooms or, to be more precise, according to data furnished by the spokesman a minute ago, people residing in areas north of the trans-Samaria road from the Qassim junction to the Tapuah junction. Residents of all other parts of the country may leave the sealed rooms and proceed normally.

[Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew at 0016 GMT on 3 February reports that the Israel Defense Forces spokesman says that to the best of his knowledge "there were no casualties and only minor damage, if at all." At 0026 GMT the spokesman adds that the missile had a conventional warhead.]

'Most' of Country Clear

LD0302002191 Jerusalem International Service in English 0000 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpts] There have been two Iraqi missile attacks on Israel tonight, bringing the total number of attacks to 10. The second was only 20 minutes ago. It was a lone missile fired from western Iraq. [passage omitted]

On the line in Tel Aviv, our military affairs reporter Alan Ben-Ami. Alan, what's the latest now?

[Ben-Ami] Well, the latest, first of all, is that as of now there are no reports of anyone being hurt in this missile attack either. Most of the country has already been given an all clear. The Army is checking out areas where they think the missile may have landed. There have been reports from various areas. It's being checked by the Army, but the most important thing, perhaps, is that so far it appears no one has been hurt and no damage has been caused. [passage omitted]

Sanctions Against Iraq Said Superceded by War

JN0402075891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Rightness of the Cause"]

[Text] The U.N Security Council resolutions on the Kuwaiti situation were many and multi-staged. They started off with condemnation of Iraq and its occupation of Kuwait and calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops. In the second stage the resolutions put in place an embargo regime on Iraq for refusing to oblige Washington and its inner circle allies to pull its forces completely and unconditionally out of Kuwait. The third and final stage was Resolution 678 which purportedly authorised the use of force against Iraq in view of the bankruptcy and ineffectiveness of the first and second stages enunciated and adopted by the council. The minute this third stage was put into effect, it has effectively and legally superceded the first and second stages of the council's resolutions.

Against this backdrop, continuing the embargo on Iraq is no longer tenable, legal or necessary. Accordingly all countries are at liberty to disregard the food and medicine sanctions imposed on Iraq as being redundant and because of being superceded by the war option exercised by some of the council members. That's why neither Jordan nor Syria nor Iran are duty bound to respect the council's embargo on Iraq and Kuwait and may now replenish the food and medicine needs of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people unhindered by any still operative resolution of the council.

But until the world community realises its own folly in accepting and following America's leadership blindly, Jordanians will do everything they can to uphold international law and legitimacy while sticking to their principled position on opposing this pointless war and its terrible consequences and objectives.

The fact that the U.S. has chosen to overlook or ignore Jordan's adherence to U.N. resolutions, by bombing civilian cars and people and targets, does not mean that we will abandon our principles and beliefs. This country and its people will always remain convinced of the rightness of our cause: we are against foreign hegemony and the systematic destruction of an Arab sister country, but we are equally committed to peace and negotiations as the way to solving problems, no matter how great these troubles are.

Grenade Thrown at UK Bank; No Casualties

NC0102164891 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] A responsible source at the Public Security Directorate has said that, at 1505 today, an unidentified person threw a hand grenade at the British Bank [Bank of the Middle East] branch in Jabal al-Husayn. The bank's security guard fired at him, but he was able to flee in an old white Mercedes car.

As a result of the grenade attack, a civilian car parked outside the bank was slightly damaged but no one was hurt.

The Public Security authorities began an immediate investigation of the incident.

Academics March in 'Solidarity' With Iraqis

NC0202145391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Professors and academicians from Jordanian universities have expressed their solidarity with the Iraqi people now subjected to the U.S.-led aggression, and urged academicians around the world to extend a helping hand to the Iraqi people and help stop the aggression.

Donning their university robes, the professors marched from the Professional Associations Complex in al-Shumaysani to the United Nations offices where they handed U.N. Resident Representative Dr. 'Ali 'Atiqah a protest note addressed to the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Following is the text of the memorandum the professors presented to 'Atiqah:

We strongly condemn the savage killing of the innocent people of Iraq and the indiscriminate destruction of civilian institutions and installations such as schools, hospitals, power stations and water pumps, which are the lifeblood of all citizens of all faiths and ages.

This flagrant aggression against Iraq is an aggression against all Arabs and Muslims all over the world and is directed against their culture and their very existence. It is reminiscent of the crusading spirit of the Middle Ages which can only ignite the spirit of jihad in self-defence.

We appeal to fellow academicians all over the world and to all men and women of clear conscience to support our call to stop such a horrifying and genocidal onslaught on innocent lives. We call upon them to cooperate in order to re-establish a healthy international order free from American arrogance and hegemony.

Any new order should be conducive to greater unity among nations and to greater mutual respect and understanding among the peoples of the world irrespective of race, place, or religion. As Muslims we are capable of contributing significantly to world peace, prosperity, and progress.

The United Nations, nowadays an instrument in the hands of the United States as demonstrated by the present situation, should address the Palestinian question in order to attain peace in the region.

We pray to Allah for a safer world free from American and Zionist bombs and colonialist dreams.

The march by professors, was the first of its kind here to show solidarity with the Iraqi people; and a spokesman for the professors said that Jordanian universities will be sending messages to various academic institutions around the world to rally support for peace and to end the war in the Gulf.

The professors and academicians represented the University of Jordan, Yarmuk University, Mu'tah University, the Jordan University of Science and Technology and the private university.

Islamic Delegation Leaves For Tehran 2 Feb

JN0302113391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Feb 91 pp 1, 14

[Text] Amman—An Islamic delegation led by Brotherhood Controller General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah left Amman yesterday for Tehran on a visit that will last for several days.

The delegation includes deputies Engineer Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah, Dr. Humam Sa'id, Ibrahim Mas'ud Khuraysat, and Dr. 'Ali al- Hawamidah, as well as Ibrahim Ghawshah, the representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

During the visit, the delegation will discuss with senior Iranian officials the pooling of the Islamic nation's potentials on one front to confront the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations. The delegation will also discuss the need to support the Palestinian intifadah, particularly under the current circumstances when the Zionist enemy has been imposing curfew on all parts of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the aggressive war against Iraq.

$210-Million EC Grant for Jordan Finalized

NC0202143291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 91 p 7

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has been allocated around $210 million as outright grant from the European Community (EC) and 80 per cent of the amount will be made available to the Kingdom soon, the EC delegate in Amman said Friday.

The finalisation of the allocation was made Wednesday by the EC executive commission, which also provided $230 million each to Egypt and Turkey—the two countries, along with Jordan, are classified as "frontline" states hard-hit economically by the Gulf crisis.

Christian Falkowski, the EC delegate in Amman said the EC was keen in ensuring the stability and growth of the Jordanian economy since it sees the Kingdom as a key player in the Middle East and appreciates its role in the region.

Documentary work related to the allocation for Jordan was prepared in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Jordan, he said.

The assistance is extended as compensation under article 50 of the United Nations Charter which provides for special assistance to countries adversely affected by adherence to Security Council resolutions.

"The grant can be utilised for import of goods into Jordan from any member states of the Community," Mr. Falkowski told the Jordan Times. "This should not be a problem at all for Jordan since 70 per cent of its imports come from Europe," he noted.

The assistance is mainly aimed at "keeping the Jordanian economy going," he said pointing out that focus has been given in the allocation to industrial ware and auxiliary equipment, spare parts, agricultural machinery, chemicals for plants and fertilisers, and pesticides.

Excluded from the allocation are any imports which could be used for any military purposes, Mr. Falkowski said.

The grant, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1991, will be made available to Jordan in two tranches, the first representing about 80 per cent of the entire amount, Mr. Falkowski said.

Related documents would be forwarded to the European Council of Ministers for approval soon, he added.

"The Community is committed to extending developmental assistance to Jordan and humanitarian aid to the occupied territories," he said.

He noted that the EC had allocated $6 million for hospitals and health services in the occupied territories and said that a fresh grant to the Palestinians living under occupation would be announced next week. He did not give any details.

The Jordan allocation of 150 million European Currency Units (ECUs) is part of a total of 500 million ECUs earmarked in the EC Commission budget.

The 12 EC members will contribute one billion ECUs to the three frontline states in addition to individual contributions on a bilateral basis.

With the EC assistance, Jordan has received or been pledged about $500 million in response to its application to the U.N. for compensation under article 50.

The Kingdom has already received around $250 million from the various EC member states, with Germany leading the list with about $210 million. Non-EC donors include Canada, Sweden, and Taiwan.

In addition, the Kingdom, has received $100 million from Japan in long-term, united soft loans and is finalising another two packages of $75 million each under stricter terms. However, the release of the $150

Military Denies Patriots Deliberately Withheld

TA0102060991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] It is difficult to find any logic in the launching of the missiles, military sources said, but Iraq is under heavy pressure in west Iraq from United States and its allied aircraft. Evidence of that was found in the deviations in the routes of the two latest missiles, which landed in the territories. The same sources described as nonsense the reports that Patriots were not fired at these Scuds because it was obvious they would land in the territories. We have said before and repeat that the last two Scuds landed in areas not covered by the Patriots. It is malicious to think that we deliberately did not fire at these missiles. The sources pointed out that the reason that one missile landed, and that there were then two quiet nights before last night's launch, might be that the Iraqis are facing some handicap in their launch capability, but it is also possible that it is part of a tactic to safeguard the launchers for firing salvos of missiles in the more advanced stages of the war.

At this stage Saddam Husayn is disappointed with his failure to drag Israel into the war and cause a Muslim uprising in the Arab world. To sum up, the missile threat and the conern about a chemical attack against the home front still exists. The missile launched last night is proof that Iraq still has the ability to attack.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] elements called on the public to continue its high state of alert on the home front. There is no change in the level of alert and the means to defend ourselves. Despite the U.S. successes in hitting the launchers there are still operational launchers in the field.

Shomron Calls Reports 'Malicious'

TA0202103391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, flatly denies the rumors that Israel deliberately did not intercept those Scud missiles which fell in Samaria. The reports are simply malicious libel, the chief of staff said.

In an interview with our army affairs correspondent, the chief of staff said that, at this stage, Israel is showing restraint to the Iraqi attacks, but we have the capability of retaliating very harshly. The plan on when and how to react will be dictated by wide-ranging considerations.

Gen. Shomron disclosed that the United States consulted with Israel on how the missile threat from west Iraq can be eliminated. He said that due to the unclear situation regarding Iraq's chemical weapons capability, we will have to be prepared for any eventuality until the war ends. People will have to continue to keep their gas masks at arm's reach.

Referring to the katyushas being fired from Lebanon, Gen. Shomron said that the shelling must be linked to Yasir 'Arafat personally.

General Warns of 'Very Harsh' Response to Katyushas

TA0102113191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Major General Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not permit the terrorists to bring about a gradual escalation on the northern border and will take immediate action to stop the katyusha shelling. Gen. Peled said that the IDF fired hundreds of shells at terrorist targets in southern Lebanon and that this was an overt and unequivocal message that we will not permit an escalation along the border.

Gen. Peled said that we do not intend to play according to the rules set by the terrorists and that under no circumstances will we respond to the firing of 20 katyushas with 20 shells. Our retaliation will be very harsh, he said.

In a conversation with our correspondents Hayim Hecht and Menahem Horowitz, Gen. Peled said that during the shelling over last two days, the IDF took special precautionary measures to make sure we do not hit innocent civilians. The shelling of the al-Rashadiyah refugee camp was also directed only at obvious military targets belonging to terrorists.

'Terrorist Targets' Shelled

TA0202102891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery shelled terrorist targets in the Tuffah region of southern Lebanon during the night, UN Interim Forces in Lebanon headquarters told our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Over the past two days, the IDF Liaison Office with Lebanon has received many appeals from Shiite notables in the villages north of the security zone to stop the IDF and SLA shelling. The notables promised to step up their efforts to prevent the Palestinian terrorist organizations from firing katyusha shells. Our correspondent adds that IDF officers made it clear that they would be happy to respond to the appeal, but stressed that the Shiites would be tested by the results achieved. The officers warned that if the katyusha shelling continues, the Israeli reaction will be even harsher.

Shamir: 'No Need To Pressure' for Peace After War

TA0302175491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the British Jewry "Solidarity Mission;" at the Knesset in Jerusalem on 3 February—recorded in English with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] We will never be separated in this land again. We are getting much praise for our policy of restraint. In fact, we don't have a policy of restraint, nor do we have a policy of retaliation. They are not principles. Our policy is the defense of our country and population. Our policy is to provide maximum security for our people.

If today we exercise restraint, it doesn't necessarily mean that we shall do so tomorrow. We shall always use the appropriate means to achieve our goal of security, as we did, for example, in 1981 to deprive this evil man of nuclear capability. Now, the whole world remembers our action with gratitude.

We are not alone in the struggle against Iraq and, therefore, we have to take account of the circumstances and the timing of anything we do, and coordinate any plans we have with our friend and ally, the United States of America.

We admire the leadership of President Bush. We appreciate the role of Prime Minister Major and the contribution of the British forces, especially the RAF [Royal Air Force] in the present conflict. But let me stress: We don't want a single U.S., British, or allied soldier to shed his blood for us. As always, we are perfectly capable of defending ourselves. All we say to the United States is what Churchill said at the beginning of the war: Give us the tools, and we will do the job.

This is an unusual war for the people of Israel. We have not mobilized our Army, nor called up reserves. This time the real front is our civilian population. They are the fighters, they are in the forefront of the struggle. The Army, of course, is not passive:, they are active as always, and doing what they have to do, but the main burden is on the civilian population. We are proud of their behavior and of their courage, as I am sure you are, too.

You have seen and even experienced the effect of the war on our home front. We have many people—the men, the women, the children—who behave in an exemplary manner as they carry out the orders of the military and civilian authorities. I would like to say to you in particular that the fortitude of the British people at the time of the blitz served as an example for us.

Your visit is an encouragement. It shows that we are not alone, and that the entire Jewish people and many, many friends are with us in this period of test and challenge. The international community will learn some lessons from what is happening now. For example, they must rethink their approach to the so-called moderate Arab leaders.

Not long ago, Saddam Husayn was defined by statesmen and the media, especially in Europe, as a moderate leader, and not long ago the PLO was regarded as an important partner in any peace process. Now the world is learning the real essence of this organization. After a few phrases by Saddam Husayn about his intention to burn half of Israel, they dropped all their moderate pretenses and their so-called renunciation of terrorism. They are the most devoted partisans of Saddam Husayn. They should have no place in any process that is aimed at achieving coexistence and peace. They are the opposite of both.

Already, some political factors are looking beyond the war to a future political settlement in the Middle East, and the assumption is made that Israel will be pressured to satisfy certain Arab demands. Therefore, let me say right now: No need to pressure, we need no encouragement, we are still the only people in this region who hate war and are ready and anxious to negotiate peace. [applause]

We are yet to see the first Arab government, apart from Egypt, that will show willingness to end the state of war with Israel and talk peace with us. [applause]

Shamir Addresses French Jews, Says IDF Prepared

TA0102114591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in Jerusalem today that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is ready to do what it must at any moment, and when it receives the order, it will execute it. Israel's victory is assured, he said. A short time ago, the prime minister addressed 1,200 French Jews who came to Israel as an act of solidarity. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports from the Jerusalem Theater:

The Jerusalem Theater's large hall was packed. Over 1,200 Jews from France packed the 900-seat hall and greeted the prime minister with loud applause. Shamir was overwhelmed by the welcome. He told the guests that this is a special war. Our civilian population—the elderly, women, and children—are being attacked, but the aggressors will fail, Mr. Shamir promised.

[Recorded remarks by Shamir in French followed by correspondent's translation] Our Army is not passive: the IDF is ready at any moment to do what it is capable of doing, and when the IDF receives the order, it will carry it out. Israel's victory is assured, Mr. Shamir said. Our policy has not changed: We will defend the State of Israel and the people of Israel, and when attacked, we will always find the most effective way to retaliate.

On leaving the emotional reception, the prime minister was asked about a political issue now on the agenda: Moledet Knesset Member Rehav'am Ze'evi's joining the cabinet. Shamir confirmed that this is being discussed. Asked if there is nothing wrong with a party that seeks the transfer of the Arabs, Shamir replied that this is a democratic country, the majority in the cabinet decides, and Israel's policy will not change if Ze'evi joins.

Shamir Firmly Against International Conference

TA0102152291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Feb 91 p 2

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] The alarm turned on in Jerusalem by the joint U.S.-Soviet statement persisted even after all-clear announcements were uttered by Washington and Moscow. In a meeting with close advisers, the prime minister made it clear that despite the recent rapprochement and warm relations between Israel and the United States, and despite the compliments he has received over the policy of restraint, he does not intend to withdraw his objection to an international conference or to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories.

"If anyone in either the European capitals or the United States is building on the prospect that the prime minister will change his position in the future, when the political process begins, he is making a serious mistake," said senior political circles, who stressed that there is still disagreement between Jerusalem and Washington on fundamental issues, although there is hope that the cooperation and Israel's responsible conduct will bear fruit in the future, when the region's political arrangements are discussed.

An understanding to that effect was reached in the course of Eagleburger's talks in Israel, but Dennis Ross, the director of State Department's Policy Planning Staff, was apparently unaware of it when he formulated the two foreign ministers' joint statement.

Leading Officials Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

Foreign Minister Levi

PM0102165691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 31 Jan 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Pierre Rousselin in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—The Americans and Soviets yesterday issued a joint communique which offers Iraq a cease-fire if it withdraws from Kuwait and makes provision for peace negotiations in the region. What do you think of that?

[Levi] There is nothing new in that. It is an additional effort by the two superpowers to force Saddam Husayn to implement the UN Security Council decisions. A great deal was said about the Russians changing their position and not being in agreement with what the United States is doing in Iraq. This joint declaration shows that there is agreement between the two superpowers. It must also be pointed out that this communique does not mention an international conference or any such thing. President Bush has said that Saddam Husayn is still the free world's enemy and that he will pay for his bombings and his crimes. There is no disagreement between the United States and the USSR.

[Rousselin] How long can Israel maintain its policy of restraint?

[Levi] This restraint is Israel's decision. It is up to Israel to decide on the nature and timing of the response. Of course, all aspects of this decision are being studied by the government.

[Rousselin] Israel is ready to intervene but it must be done in coordination with the United States. Are you waiting for a "go-ahead?"

[Levi] No. It must not be viewed in that way. Israel followed a policy which has been called a "low profile" policy before and after Saddam Husayn's provocations. Israel must above all respect the efforts made by the Americans, the British, the French, and the other countries fighting Iraq. We must also reach an understanding to prevent any accidents.

[Rousselin] What do you think of the military campaign pursued by the United States and the allied forces? Do you think that more could be done and that Israel could do more?

[Levi] The allies' efforts must not be underestimated. It is a major effort which is producing good results. Many people think that the allied forces could do much more. I see the effort made by the air forces to reduce the danger day by day and night by night....

[Rousselin] Are you talking about the danger to Israel....

[Levi] Not just Israel, but the entire region. We must strengthen these efforts by a position which gives this war its meaning. The aim is to combat the impetus of a pan-Arabism, fanaticism, and fundamentalism which sees an enemy in everything which is foreign and not fanatical.

If we had not taken the action we took in 1981 against the nuclear power station in Iraq, the rules of the game would have been completely different now. We know what Saddam Husayn is capable of doing, because he has used chemical weapons against his own people without the world doing anything about it. He could also have resorted to nuclear weapons to carry out his blackmail and realize his grandiose dream, and to crush and annex his neighbors, primarily the Arab countries....

[Rousselin] How do you judge the support for Israel among international opinion and the change in the attitude of some governments?

[Levi] It is a pity that this has happened after we have been bombed and when there is such a serious threat to us. We had foreseen that Saddam Husayn was a mortal danger. We were not understood. We were accused, even by good friends, of exaggerating the danger to Israel. However, it has been proven. We now have the whole world's sympathy and even the sympathy of some Arab countries. I hope that in the future we will be more readily understood and people will realize the position of a small democratic country constantly threatened by dictators who manage to get hold of terrible arsenals.

It is very difficult to stand firm against all these dangers and all those accusations from a free world which ought to have supported us. I hope that that is all over and that the present support will be continued in the future.

It is clear that for the Western world, this war must be the last war. The United States must change its policy toward the Middle East because most of the Arab countries now depend on the West, politically and economically. The West must therefore bring pressure to bear on them to ensure that this new era which has started in Europe can also start in the Middle East. The countries in this region must decide themselves that this war is the last.

They must end the state of war against Israel and agree to negotiate with Israel face to face. That is the least that we can hope. And yet, in recent years, such a desire was regarded as an excessive demand. It was as if asking to talk peace face to face was a sign of extremism. We expect this change: Stop this state of war and start direct talks with Israel.

[Rousselin] How do you envisage these postwar negotiations?

[Levi] First, Saddam Husayn must not come out of this crisis with any advantage. Otherwise he will be a hero to the fanatical sections of the population and will be imitated by others. We must prove that the policy he embodies leads to nothing but destruction and defeat.

We must then reach an understanding which makes it possible to bring all the Middle East countries to have direct discussions. When people advocate an international conference, what is it intended to replace? Will it replace our elementary demand for direct talks with those who want to make peace with Israel? Instead of that, do people want a conference, do they want us to appear before a court? I hope and believe that there will be a change of view and that, as in East-West relations, we will reach a situation in which there will be no more war and in which problems among countries can be settled by preliminary talks, by unconditional face-to-face negotiations.

[Rousselin] Do you think that there can be peace in the region if Saddam Husayn remains in power in Iraq even if he is defeated?

[Levi] No, I do not think so. Because he has defied everybody, and violated all the values of sovereignty and humanity. He represents a very dangerous fanaticism. He dreams of crushing the free world and the Western world. He has sown hatred. If he persists, it, too, will persist. He wants to lead the whole Arab world against the West. He really represents a permanent danger by saying that he will use all the weapons in his possession. By portraying all those opposed to him as devils and portraying himself as a god, he takes us back to dark ages which remind us of the darkest periods in mankind's history.

[Rousselin] France has been strongly criticized in Israel in recent weeks, perhaps by you, too....

[Levi] If you say perhaps it means you are not sure....

[Rousselin] Have you seen signs of better understanding between the two countries in recent days?

[Levi] France has made some effort over the past few days to reach an understanding and to see the future in dialogue and a friendship based on the present solidarity. I would be very pleased if we could use that solidarity to end the atmosphere which has seriously affected our country and which has cast doubt on many values in our country. It is important to understand how much the Israelis have been hurt. A country other than France would not have produced the same reactions. My compatriots see France through its values and have a weakness for this great democracy, this great people, and this president—a former combatant who has a place in the hearts of many Israelis.

I do not want to go back over everything that has been said against Israel by several prominent French people and all the accusations made here against France. Ours is a democratic country. We must look to the future. This solidarity which we are now rediscovering will, I hope, be the basis for warm relations between us in the future.

As President Mitterrand's special envoy (Thierry de Beauce, secretary of state for international cultural relations—LE FIGARO editor's note) and [French Socialist Party First Secretary] Pierre Mauroy told me: "We will come together again." I like that expression. We will return to the friendship and very close relations which exist between our two countries.

[Rousselin] Can you assure us that, contrary to some accusations, no French aid helped Iraqi missiles reach Israel?

[Levi] No. I know absolutely nothing about that. Of course, there is still the memory of a nuclear capability which France gave Iraq. But we must remember that President Mitterrand refused to renew that aid after we destroyed the power station. There are also the Exocet missiles, the planes—Mirage planes.... There are interests (French interests in Iraq—LE FIGARO editor's note). We know that. Everything supplied, whether by Eastern or Western Europe, is directed against our little country, to wipe it out, as Saddam Husayn says.

So, you can understand how some Israelis feel, in this democracy, this little country which has to restrain itself to avoid endangering an Arab coalition allied to the West. We are paying a very high price. Our civilian population, our cities are bombed by missiles and we are not responding. It is impossible....

[Rousselin] Were you surprised by Jean-Pierre Chevenement's resignation yesterday?

[Levi] I was not surprised. France is taking part in a mission against Saddam Husayn to smash and end the threat from Iraq. That could not last. Mr. Chevenement put pressure on that policy. That was bound to end in failure for him. He attempted a rapprochement with Saddam Husayn. He tried to stop France from proving its support for all its allies on the battlefield. He drew up an unrealistic policy which undermined President Mitterrand's firm position. It was, therefore, logical that he resign, because policy is conducted by the president of the republic.

[Rousselin] Were you reassured by that resignation?

[Levi] I look to the future, I do not dwell on the past. The past has a bitter taste. The future is full of hope.

Despite this bitterness we felt toward France in the past few days, we dream of seeing France and what it represents at our side. Not only when we are being bombed but also when it comes to eliminating the danger which threatens Israel's very existence.... I would like this solidarity which is visible in all sections of the French population to be continued in the future rather than remaining an isolated fact, limited to a crisis.

[Rousselin] It is not just France's relations with Iraq, there are also the links with the PLO. What do you expect from France in practical terms?

[Levi] I learned from Mr. Mauory that the French Socialists—and also, I think, the European Socialists and international socialism—no longer regard the PLO as the Palestinians' sole representative. Mr. Mauroy said that yesterday. That is a real sign of the approaching change. We must not make any gifts to a terrorist organization which has violated all human values, lied to all those governments and to the European community, and which strengthened Saddam Husayn.

[Rousselin] For almost two weeks, 1.5 million Palestinians have been living under curfew in the occupied territories. Do you regard that as normal?

[Levi] The war being waged against us is not normal either. Our behavior, which can be seen as brave and courageous, also has its weaknesses. We have found people in Judea and Samaria passing details of the places hit by Iraqi missiles to Iraq, through agents in other countries. We also have a duty to protect the population. We are at war. We have been the target of this war. We must now maintain a calm atmosphere for the Muslims, for the Arabs, and for the Jews. We cannot give those who now want to undermine the country's security the opportunity of endangering human lives.

The situation will gradually be sorted out. Missiles have even fallen on Arab villages in Samaria. They are beginning to understand.... He was told: By bombing Israel you are also likely to kill Arabs. He replied: Do you think I am going to differentiate between lentils and peas? It makes no difference to him. He has no feeling for those brothers.... The Arabs are the first to pay the price of this war.

[Rousselin] You mentioned the arrest of Sari Nusaybah. If the accusations against him are true, he is guilty of high treason. So why is he in administrative detention?

[Levi] We are at war. The security services found evidence which they supplied to the defense minister. He has not been hanged, or killed, or expelled. He has been arrested. If that had happened in France in wartime, and if there had been similar proof, I do not know how France would have behaved. We have made a minimal decision. There are courts. He will have every chance of proving his innocence, if he is innocent....

[Rousselin] The people in the streets seem less tense. Saddam Husayn has placed his Sukhoi-24 bombers in Iran. There is still a chemical threat, but it has not come yet. Do you think that the greatest danger is over?

[Levi] No. We are threatened. We take these threats seriously. We do not know everything Saddam Husayn has. But what we know is already very very dangerous. He still has his air force intact. He has an army which is armed to the teeth. He displayed the same fanaticism and made the same threat just the evening before last. Nothing is over yet. We have hope, while standing firm, and doing what we can to help fight against the darkness represented by Saddam Husayn's philosophy. We must be courageous, patient, and strong, despite everything that we are going through.

We have the chance of dealing him a blow which he will not even have time to regret. But we would then be accused by all the allies of having spoiled their plans. We do not want to be accused of that. Of course, there are limits. How long can Israel afford to maintain this policy and this line of conduct and how many blows must it suffer?

Chief of Staff Shomron

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[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by Dan Margalit and Yosi Ronen, recorded "a few minutes ago" in the studio]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening, Mr. Shomron.

[Shomron] Good evening.

[Ronen] Gen. Shomron, we have been experiencing missile attacks on Israel for two weeks; there have been eight volleys and 28 missiles so far. Are we going to experience similar attacks until the end of the Gulf war?

[Shomron] Although their capability has been eroded, the Iraqis still have the potential to fire missiles from west Iraq. Unfortunately, some of those missiles might be outfitted with chemical warheads. We do not know that for a fact, but the possibility exists. I suggest that all of us take a look beyond our sealed rooms at the process taking place in the Middle East.

[Margalit] Excuse me, but before we go into the question of chemical weapons, I would like to ask you if Saddam Husayn goes on using the same weapons he is using now, with the same frequency and with the same level of success, can the war continue with him using those weapons at will? Could the war end without an Israeli operation?

[Shomron] I cannot talk about an Israeli operation in this forum. Responsibility for the civilian home front lies with the State of Israel and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Of course, we will be the ones to decide when is the right time to use our force. This will be a calculated decision. We do not make any automatic decisions. Everything is calculated thoroughly. That is why it is important to look beyond our sealed rooms at the process currently taking place in the Middle East.

The U.S.-led coalition is gradually eroding and destroying the Iraqi war machine, which, together with those of other countries in the eastern front, had been designed to operate against us. This coalition operates undisturbed. It is the only superpower in the Middle East, and it is doing a great job. Moreover, one must understand that not only is the coalition driving Iraq out of Kuwait, but it is destroying the Iraqi war machine.

Here is where we must consider the question of how an Israeli operation could benefit or hinder this vast capacity to effect a solution in the Middle East and perhaps even a significant change. This is not simply war.

[Margalit] In other words, you are talking about a stunning victory [preceeding two words in English] for the United States, which will end this war without our being actively involved.

[Shomron] It would have been excellent had our home front not been hit. The war will end with Iraq's total defeat, and we would certainly like to see a change in the Middle East in a political rather than a belligerent direction. That would be excellent, but the problem is that our home front is being threatened.

[Ronen] Sir, you have often spoken about important issues as opposed to immediate issues. What you just said about the destruction of the Iraqi infrastructure is definitely an important issue. Could an immediate issue, such as resolving the matter of the missiles, not become an important issue as well? In other words, could the order of priorities not change, obligating Israel to do something even if the Americans tell us not to?

[Shomron] You are definitely right. That could become both an urgent and important issue. Ultimately, attacks and cumulative damage to our home front affect our existence. If immigrants do not want to come here or people do not want to live here, that will affect our existence, even if not an inch of Israeli territory has been occupied. Indeed, that is why the IDF is set and ready to use its strength against this threat in ways we have already planned. I said as much even before the war. We are prepared to destroy Iraq's capability to fire missiles at Israel. We have the ability to do that. We will take action as soon as a decision is made, based on a wide range of considerations and regardless of isolated obstacles.

[Margalit] You have said that you believe most of Saddam Husayn's chemical missiles—if he really has them, if he installs them, and if he launches them at Israel—will disintegrate in midair. What is the basis for that assertion?

[Shomron] I think you are misquoting me, and I am glad to answer the question. If Saddam Husayn has chemical warheads—which has not been confirmed—we believe they are quite primitive. We think some of them will not reach their target, and that those that do touch ground will cause less damage than one would expect from such a quantity of chemicals. Nevertheless, they are dangerous chemicals. That is why I would like to take this opportunity to call on all civilians in the homefront to take all instructions seriously. Gas masks and sealed rooms are a definite answer to the chemical threat.

[Ronen] Does that apply to the threat of biological weapons?

[Shomron] The same masks and sealed rooms are also a defense against biological weapons. I call on the public to follow instructions and not be indifferent.

[Margalit] If biological weapons are used, God forbid, do we have the means to cleanse the area?

[Shomron] I do not want to elaborate on the subject. We have answers to that issue, too. We have taken that possibility into account. We have teams of experts to deal only with that subject. We know how to handle each of the problems you have just mentioned.

[Ronen] With your permission, I would like to go back to the U.S.-Israeli question. Are you satisfied with the U.S. pace? Iraq can fire 30, 40, or 50 missiles. Schwartzkopf may again say that the missiles are just like a thunder storm in Virginia, but to us they mean that bombs are falling on Tel Aviv. Are you satisfied with their pace of eliminating the missiles fired at us?

[Shomron] First of all, I am not satisfied when even one missile falls on the State of Israel; I am definitely not satisfied. The question is: Do we operate now—we have the ability, and a good one at that—concurrently with a coalition that has been operating in our full and vital interests? This, not whether I am satisfied or not, is the real question. We have a close relationship with the Americans. The Americans sense their responsibility and realize that the moment we decide to go ahead and destroy the missile threat they will not be able to stop us. We are a sovereign state and as such we have the power and natural right to defend our citizens.

[Margalit] Can we do away with the threat? Or can we just hit but not totally destroy the launchers?

[Shomron] We can do a very good job.

[Ronen] Can you foresee a situation where we tell the Americans: Gentlemen, this is it. We have listened to you and restrained ourselves until now. We are now going in, whether you like it or not.

[Shomron] That is definitely a possibility. It may be the main reason for the mechanism of coordination between Israel and the United States: to see what is going on there, what they can do, and to tell them what we think can be done.

[Ronen] Is that why Ehud Baraq is now in the United States?

[Shomron] He is not in the United States; he is in Israel.

[Margalit] He was in the United States, but he is back now.

[Shomron] I would not like to attach any significance to that. We have a close relationship with the United States. Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri and Deputy Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq went to the United States. Israeli officials frequently visit the United States, but at this time the visits reflect our coordination and the mutual understanding of our views and general outlooks.

[Margalit] We have heard you say, just now and many times since the beginning of the war, that what the Americans and the multinational coalition are doing in Iraq and Kuwait is very important. Israel's policy of restraint is what follows from that assertion, and all of it is abundantly clear. I would like to ask you about another aspect: Might the Syrians not imply from our restraint that Israel has actually lost some of its deterrent power?

[Shomron] I suppose that Syria, like other countries, knows, perhaps even better than others, what Israel's real strength and abilities are and how severe our reaction can be, as we have been saying.

[Margalit] But perhaps our military and political leadership is hesitant.

[Ronen] Perhaps our home front cannot sustain attacks on the civilian population, and that is the message we are projecting.

[Shomron] Exactly the opposite is true. The Syrians, as all others, know that if our home front had been weak and unable to endure, we would have attacked immediately. Even if we had to pay a dearer price in the future, we would have attacked with all our might.

[Margalit] Has our home front in Tel Aviv shown endurance?

[Shomron] I think our home front, Tel Aviv included, has endured very well. I am not talking about isolated cases. Let me tell you that I meet people and see how they behave. In general, our home front has shown good endurance. Even in Tel Aviv and Haifa—I am only talking about those areas, for I do not think the rest of the country has a problem other than being worried—people are enduring nicely.

[Ronen] Sir, does this not denote a change in the IDF's concept of moving the battlefront to enemy soil? Are we saying that our ability to achieve victory does not depend on moving the battlefront to enemy soil, but that the home front's ability to endure is also a factor?

[Shomron] The ability to endure is never a goal in itself, but it provides the flexibility to make decisions in order to win the war and achieve all the objectives. The question is whether we fight the entire war on our own or whether a war that is totally compatible with our interests is fought by a coalition of superpowers. The home front's endurance and resistance provides the flexibility to make decisions. I definitely agree that a weaker home front with no resistance would have deprived us of flexibility in our decisions. Our actions derive from our natural right and are according to plans.

[Margalit] We are sorry for each and every attack on Tel Aviv, Haifa, and elsewhere. Still, objectively speaking, the damage inflicted on our cities—knock on wood, let it stay like this—has not been terribly bad, notwithstanding all the pain and anguish. The question is: Why do you say the home front has been withstanding the pressure well while a public opinion poll published today says that 44 percent of Tel Aviv's residents leave the city every night?

[Shomron] First of all, I would like to say that I do not measure the damage in terms of statistics. The damage has been mainly to morale, a cumulative feeling of a lack of security. I occasionally examine that matter, and we have been accused of conducting public opinion polls. As the commander in charge of the home front, it is important for me to know how the people feel, what their fears are, what problems we have to solve.

[Ronen] Why?

[Shomron] In order to maintain the home front's resistance, not in terms of statistics about the number of apartments damaged or people injured.

[Ronen] In order to make military decisions?

[Shomron] In order to give the political leaders the freedom to make decisions based on Israel's real interests, not only now but also in the future, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

[Margalit] Had the findings of poll been different, had 70 percent said they wanted immediate action, would you have suggested an operation at once? Should you be influenced by such considerations?

[Shomron] The polls are not conducted to decide actions, but to see how to deal with and help the home front maintain its resistance and mental balance and go on with its life.

[Ronen] Gen. Shomron, you used to be a basketball player in Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'aqov. Can victory be achieved only through defense [preceeding word in English]?

[Shomron] Definitely not. I would like to remind you that approximately 1,000 sorties are conducted every day in Iraq to hit and destroy the Iraqi Army. Some 200 to 250 sorties are conducted every day against the missile sites in west Iraq. They have been hit, but not all of them have been destroyed.

[Margalit] Going back to the basketball metaphor used by Yosi, would you say that the Americans are shooting from outside the three-point line?

[Shomron] This war has definitely shown that stand-off precision weapons have an edge. Jump shots [preceeding two words in English] are definitely a good tool, in this war as well. As for the Americans, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for their operations. They are investing a great deal; they are risking their lives and getting killed in this war. They are asking us to restrain ourselves and help them carry out the operation that is also a vital Israeli interest. That is why I say that it is our natural right to intervene, whenever we decide. We have plans, and our ability is very good.

[Margalit] Can you also assess Iraq's resistance?

[Shomron] According to the reports I have read, I know their morale is declining and they feel they are about to collapse. We are witnessing Saddam Husayn's attempts to bring forward what he calls the big ground battle. This is an interesting point: Neither side, each for its own reasons, wanted a short war. Saddam Husayn thought that a prolonged war would break up the multinational coalition and would win him the support of the Third World and other Arab countries—that he would be likened to Egypt's al-Nasir in 1956. Although he would lose the battle, he thought he would win the war.

The Americans wanted time to take advantage of their edge in standoff weapons, to destroy and debilitate the Iraqi Army without sustaining many casualties. It turns out that they were right, and that time is working in the Americans' favor. Soon Saddam will have nothing to attack with, and that is why he is trying to hasten the ground battle. In my opinion, that move shows that the U.S. tactics and strategy are right and are bearing fruit.

[Ronen] When can we assert that a specific infrastructure has been destroyed? The Iraqis seem to have numerous alternative systems of communications and back-ups, and they have been keeping their heads above water.

[Shomron] An aerial system provides no full regional picture. Everybody does what they can, but there is no general picture. A concentration of effort is impossible and action cannot be taken according to what happens on the ground. Everybody does their job as best they can, or else they do nothing. This is the situation we are beginning to discern now in Iraq.

[Ronen] Is that also your interpretation of the last two missile attacks?

[Shomron] I assume there are launchers and a certain number of missiles in west Iraq, and they get instructions to go on firing them as long as they can.

[Margalit] When we see what the Americans are investing in attacking the Iraqi infrastructure, some Israelis feel somewhat horrified, for had it not been for this war in Kuwait, we might have had to face this entire war machine, possibly a worse one in two years, and perhaps also the Syrians and the Jordanians, the entire eastern front in fact. I ask myself whether we all did not err in underestimating the serious significance of the arms stockpiled east of Israel.

[Ronen] In view of the current missile war, our eastern front in fact lies at a distance of 1,000 km from us and not directly on our eastern border.

[Shomron] We knew and correctly assessed the situation. We also warned the United States against developments in Iraq, especially after the end of the war with Iran. At the same time, it is a fact that the eastern front, led by Iraq, has accumulated a great deal of power. We, with the budget the State of Israel and its security allocations, moved in the correct direction. The weapons that should win a war are standoff, precision weapons. Such weapons are more important than many conventional forces....

[Margalit, interrupting] We have made reductions in this sphere after all, Sir. We decreased the activity of REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] and engaged in less complex projects....

[Shomron, interrupting] Listen to me, we work within the limitations of the budget. To allocate resources to those weapons that we have acquired and are still acquiring, we reduced some of our regular activity. I have stated several times that I prefer a qualitative army to a large one, and that guides our activity.

[Ronen] Still, we acquired the Patriot missile under fire, at the very last minute.

[Shomron] The Patriot missile is not normally an answer to missiles. The true answer to missiles is the Arrow missile. The Patriot is a partial answer. We had wanted the Patriot a long time ago for our anti-aircraft system. We have been working to purchase it for 18 to 24 months, and we finally received it and got our teams to learn to operate it with the maximum possible speed. The Patriot missiles reached Israel then. If you ask whether we delayed the receipt of the Patriot batteries with U.S. soldiers....

[Margalit, interrupting] Did we not somewhat delay the receipt of the Patriot because we were afraid that opting for it would result in a shortage of money for the Arrow project?

[Shomron] What you are saying is simply untrue. We received the Patriot finally as a gift. This gift costs a little money, but it is still a gift, as promised by the U.S. President.

[Ronen] So what has happened here? Did we assess that the Patriot is not the answer to medium-range missiles?

[Shomron] I said that the Patriot is not designed for the destruction of missiles. It has a limited ability to defend against missiles. It is an excellent weapon against aircraft, and can enable the Israeli Air Force to use more planes for offensive purposes rather than for defending our air space. This is very important in war.

[Ronen] In other words, Chief of Staff, until we have the Arrow, there is no answer to the missile problem.

[Shomron] There is a good answer for the missiles: to destroy them. I want to say that before we have the Arrow, there is no better answer in the world, and the true answer to the missiles question is to destroy them.

[Margalit] Then, in light of what has accumulated on the eastern front, Israel should strategically rephrase what it originally said in English: We will not be the first to introduce nuclear arms into the Middle East [preceeding sentence in English]. Should we not change that formula perhaps?

[Shomron] I do not know. At this stage, I do not see a reason to change it. I really do not see a reason for a change now.

[Ronen] Chief of Staff, there are a few minutes left before the end of the interview, and we cannot ignore what is taking place on the northern border. Firing in the north, firing at the security zone in southern Lebanon, opens sort of a new front that had been quiet for several months. Do we link that to developments in Iraq? Will we handle that matter separately? What solution do you see for that?

[Shomron] First, there is definitely a connection. The PLO has instructed that katyushas be fired. That is its contribution to the war in the Gulf. Beyond our reaction, which will become even harsher than it is now, we have clarified—and this is quite clear in southern Lebanon, I believe—that life there will not be quiet if our settlements are attacked. Let me tell you though, that a large number of those southern Lebanese residents who do not live in the security zone understand this. Authentic Lebanese residents belonging to various organizations are making efforts to stop the 'Arafat-Fatah forces in Lebanon from shooting at our settlements, because they understand what our reaction will be.

[Margalit] What efforts can they make? What are they actually doing?

[Shomron] They can simply prevent 'Arafat's people from entering their area with launchers aimed at Israel. They can make a great effort in that direction, and they are doing so.

[Margalit] We give the impression that we have a good response for the launchers in Iraq at a distance of 600 km from our border. Can we then destroy the launchers located only several tens of kilometers from our border?

[Shomron] It is quite strange to compare a katyusha launcher to a Scud launcher. You know that one can place a katyusha launcher anywhere and even hide it on a donkey's back; I am not sure that is the case with a Scud launcher. At the same time, we will prevent that firing at our area, and we know how to do so. Even if it is harsh and painful for the residents of southern Lebanon, we will prevent that firing.

[Ronen] Let me ask you a personal question. You have been a chief of staff for three years, during the intifadah, with IDF soldiers chasing children with stones, and now the chief of staff who instructs the civilian population on entering and leaving sealed rooms. Are you frustrated as a military man?

[Shomron] Look, I have been in the Army for more than three years, and I have experienced hard wars and interesting raids. I cannot choose what I do in the Army. The Army is the executive arm of the State of Israel and is engaged in those national tasks important for the state, be it intifadah or otherwise. As regards the intifadah, the Army has been dealing with the intifadah in the best possible manner, in my opinion. I would not have liked to use an alternative way to handle the intifadah—as is sometimes suggested here—just to show the contrast, the catastrophe, that could have been caused.

As for the home front, I believe that our understanding of what we were facing and our preparing the public for possible missiles, missiles that may also be outfitted with chemical warheads, have proved themselves. We had prepared the public gradually but surely, distributing gas kits and issuing explanations. The Israel Army is an offensive one in principle, but the current problem is the home front and that is what we are handling.

[Margalit] Another personal question, Gen. Shomron. You are in command of the military power we have, and you know that the Iraqis deserve large quantities of explosives from the State of Israel in retaliation. You know that it is only for political reasons that we had better not do this now perhaps. The question is whether you do wonder sometimes, as an individual rather than a chief of staff, why you, of all people, had to deal with the intifadah so much, rather than lead forces in battle?

[Shomron] Believe me, I would have loved to act against those who endanger the home front or the State of Israel. We have both the power and ability; we have an excellent Army. The Army in the State of Israel is subordinate to the political leadership. Both the political and military echelons have considered matters, and I accept the end result.

[Margalit] Allow me another, brief question: If the war does not end by 1 April, God forbid, will the reshuffle in the IDF take place?

[Shomron] I hope that the war will be over before 1 April in any case.

[Margalit] Mr. Chief of Staff, thank you very much.

[Shomron] Thank you.

Air Force Commander Bin-Nun

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[Interview with Air Force Commander Major General Avihu Bin-Nun, by Ron Ben-Yishay; date, place not given]

[Text] [Ben-Yishay] We have had several quiet nights without missiles. What is the reason, in your view?

[Bin-Nun] There could be a number of reasons for the calm. One, the ongoing, although gradual, U.S. successful hits on the missile launchers. The air strikes after missile launchings apparently make the Iraqis afraid of starting the launching process. It is also possible that it is a decision made by the lower level echelon operating the missiles. The second possibility—strong winds. Strong winds affect launchings. In the launch areas there have been frequent strong winds which have meant that the missiles cannot be propped up on the launchers when the wind is over 20 knots.

A third possibility is that it is deliberate tactics. Last week we also had a two-day missile break. It might be possible that on Friday, the Muslim holy day, he will start the new missile week. I would not discount the possibility of continued attacks and even an increase in the number of simultaneous launches, but I have no doubt that in general Iraq's ability is gradually being diminished.

[Ben-Yishay] At his news conference on Wednesday, General Schwarzkopf was full of optimism, is there any connection between that optimism and the fewer Scud missiles launched by the Iraqis?

[Bin-Nun] No. Schwarzkopf's optimism is mainly related to the field over which he is in command. In other words, hits on strategic and military infrastructure targets in Iraq and fighting in Kuwait. In those fields it is now obvious that although it took longer than had been estimated—and it might take them another two, perhaps even three, weeks—but in the final analysis they will succeed in achieving their plans through air power. They are gradually, but consistently, destroying the Iraqi war machine over the long run.

[Ben-Yishay] As a result, can Israel regard itself as safer than two weeks ago?

[Bin-Nun] In my view, unequivocally yes. They have had major successes, that we know about, in hits on the nonconventional and military infrastructure for the long term. There is no doubt that each passing day is in our favor.

[Ben-Yishay] Israel, therefore, has a vested interest that the fighting on the ground in Kuwait start as late as possible and for the air bombardments to continue as long as possible?

[Bin-Nun] Yes, in my view that is correct.

[Ben-Yishay] How many Scud launchers still exist in the area which endangers us, in west Iraq?

[Bin-Nun] There are various estimates. Their missile deployment has apparently been eroded. The erosion is also a result of the missile firings themselves. A launcher from which there have been several firings has been eroded and requires intensive maintenance, which apparently cannot be provided in the area in which they are located. In my view, they still have a capability to launch a salvo of five or six missiles.

[Ben-Yishay] Saddam Husayn claims that he has chemical, biological, and nuclear warheads for his missiles. Do you believe him?

[Bin-Nun] I do not believe him. I believe that except for the conventional warheads, he might perhaps also have a chemical capability, but that is also very doubtful. He certainly does not have biological and nuclear warheads for the missiles.

[Ben-Yishay] Why does he not have a chemical warhead, in your view?

[Bin-Nun] It is mainly a problem of detonators. The missile has to explode in the air in order to disperse the gas in the air. If the gas does not disperse above ground but only when the missile hits the ground, the effectiveness is very low. If there is an additional delay in the detonation, it loses all effectiveness. Saddam Husayn does not have the technology to employ special detonators required for the missiles to explode at the altitude necessary to effectively disperse the chemicals.

Launching a missile without the special detonators is in fact a complete waste of the chemical substance and the missile. Nevertheless, he might do it just so that he can say he did it. I do not discount the possibility that there might be some primitive chemical warhead that will not even cause the damage that a conventional warhead causes.

[Ben-Yishay] Then why do we not hide in underground shelters instead of running with the gas masks to sealed rooms?

[Bin-Nun] Because there is a possibility, although very slight, that he might nevertheless have an effective chemical warhead with a capability of causing heavy damage.

[Ben-Yishay] What has changed since the start of the war in the U.S. attacks on the launchers used to fire the al-Husayn missiles?

[Bin-Nun] They have become more experienced hunters. They use methods which permit better intelligence, scanning, and destruction. They have learned from experience and have improved their methods.

[Ben-Yishay] Why is it so difficult to locate, attack, and destroy the al-Husayn missiles and their launchers?

[Bin-Nun] The area in which the launchers are hidden is almost the size of Israel. In that area, five to eight groups of batteries have to be found. Some are typical and can be easily identified. They are large, about as long as trailers. Others, however, are about the size of an ambulance or minibus. They travel in groups of five or six, move from site to site, and hide in places which cannot be seen with the naked eye or even through special equipment, certainly not at night. They are hidden in silos covered with camouflage nets and in civilian hangars, such as railway storehouses or warehouses for agricultural equipment, or even things like greenhouses. They hide there until the launch and are removed for short periods of up to 2 hours, which changes from launch to launch.

They are also trying to improve their accuracy by applying the coordinates of the previous hits, with which certain elements provide them. They therefore repeat launchings from the same places from which they fired previously. The launchers remain exposed for the time it takes to direct and launch the missile and then return to their hiding places. If they are not caught when they are uncovered, they have to be found methodically silo after silo until the right location is hit.

Many places believed to be hiding the missile launchers are bombed, such as large water conduits under highways which the United States is regularly bombing in west and south Iraq. Storehouses situated within a radius of 50 to 70 km of launch sites are bombed. It is still difficult to catch them in time, because they can be camouflaged as something else.

[Ben-Yishay] Why, in view of the U.S. permanent air presence in the area, is it so difficult to catch them during the launch preparations?

[Bin-Nun] Even if there is a permanent air presence over the area, it is very difficult to identify the launchers and missiles at night and under difficult weather conditions. Even if you have radar such as that in the F-15's, which can see through clouds, or radar aircraft which overfly the area and provide the interceptors with the coordinates of the launchers, the vehicles—which are often camouflaged as something different—cannot be identified with certainty.

Nevertheless, the United States had some excellent success recently, especially after or just before missile launches, when the launchers or the missiles were still upright and could be identified. Although the Americans are there all the time, they caught them by accident.

[Ben-Yishay] There are a lot a stories about dummy launchers. Are they true?

[Bin-Nun] The estimation is that they are true and are meant to divert air bombardments from the real launchers.

[Ben-Yishay] Would the Israeli Air Force carry out the mission of destroying the surface-to-surface missiles and their launchers better than the Americans?

[Bin-Nun] We should stick to the saying: "Let us be modest." We would have used different methods and different time frames. We could have invested more might for that purposes and, I believe, we would have succeeded in the mission. I do not want to say whether we would have done it better than the Americans or not, certainly not at this stage.

[Ben-Yishay] Israel is debating two issues: One, how the surface-to-surface missile threat against Israel can be neutralized. Two, whether to retaliate against the Iraqis for bombing Israeli population centers. Do you have a unique answer—something the Americans cannot provide—to these two problems?

[Bin-Nun] As far as retaliation goes, for the Americans it is only a problem of making such a decision. We should not search for a unique Israeli response. They are attacking certain targets in Baghdad, usually only military targets. Perhaps we would have hit other targets in retaliation. There is no limit to retaliation; it is only a question of making a decision. We could reach anywhere in Iraq. We proved that in the past, and we do not have to prove it again. We can retaliate the moment a political decision of that nature is made. The political echelon has a strategic aerial arm which it can use freely the moment it decides to do so.

As far as the launching of missiles goes, the Israel Air Force's ability, means, and methods are different from those of the United States. We believe that we have a combat doctrine and operational ideas about how to carry out that mission, and that also only calls for a decision by the political echelon.

[Ben-Yishay] Much is being said here about the need to coordinate with the Americans, if there is an Israeli operation. What kind of coordination is this?

[Bin-Nun] We are two Air Forces fighting the same enemy. The best kind of coordination would have been that of allies which coordinate with and aid each other. This is the highest possible level of coordination, and this is what I hope to attain if we decide to act.

Another kind of coordination would be for them to clear an area up to a certain longitude in which we could operate freely. This would enable us to execute a mission.

The question is whether we could hit the Iraqi missile deployment without coordinating with the United States. Again, this is a political, not a military, problem. We are well aware of the possible consequences of an uncoordinated Israeli operation and of the collisions which could take place in midair. If the Americans were not to clear the area in which we want to operate, our operation would be very difficult, perhaps even impossible. We would have to take care not only to not shoot them down, but also not to be shot down by them in the operation area.

[Ben-Yishay] Would the use of special aircraft identification devices solve the problem?

[Bin-Nun] Certainly, but only if there is an agreement in advance.

[Ben-Yishay] Will you also not be needing a corridor to the area in west Iraq where you need to operate?

[Bin-Nun] The corridor is not necessarily an American problem. It is more a problem for the Arab countries over whose territory we would have to fly to reach west Iraq. The Americans cannot order Syria, Jordan, or even Saudi Arabia to allow us free passage. I am not even convinced that the Americans can speak to the Jordanians properly.

We believe and hope that if and when we will have to operate, the Jordanians will know where the line is. I hope they do not cross this line, because if they do they will lose everything. If we must get to west Iraq to defend ourselves, we hope that the Jordanians will realize that we have nothing against them. Just as the missiles pass through their skies, so will we have to, without hurting their sovereignty. We will need that for a limited period of time to accomplish the mission.

[Ben-Yishay] What if the Jordanians fail to understand?

[Bin-Nun] There will no longer be a Jordanian Air Force.

[Ben-Yishay] There is a lot of uncertainty concerning the Patriot missiles ability to intercept the al-Husayn. The Americans claim that the Patriots did their job, yet damage was caused by missile parts which hit a residential area. The press is reporting Israeli improvements to the Patriot missiles. Could you please clarify the picture?

[Bin-Nun] This is an area we are still studying. We cannot talk about it. The minute the first missile was launched, a debriefing team was set up and given special means, including some of the best Israeli experts. We work in full cooperation with the Americans to study every launch.

The issue is in an embryonic stage around the world. The Israeli and the Saudi lands are the world's first operational trial zones for antimissile missiles. We need to study the details of every Scud and Patriot launch and draw the conclusions. That is the only way to optimize performance. I can tell you that as soon as we launched the first missile, we drew conclusions and made certain changes. Some of the improvements were immediately introduced; others will be introduced in the future. Our performance improves daily.

[Ben-Yishay] According to General Schwarzkopf, the allied forces enjoy freedom of operation in the Iraqi and Kuwaiti skies. Does this mean that the threat of an Iraqi air strike on Israel has been eliminated? It is well known that a single plane that would manage to sneak into Israel could cause more damage than several missiles.

[Bin-Nun] The aerial threat on Israel has in no way been eliminated. Although the number of Iraqi planes that crossed over to Iran is half of what was said in the media—only 90 to 100 planes and not 200 as has been claimed—it is still true that the aerial threat has been significantly reduced due to the blows the Iraqi Air Force and its airfields have suffered. The Sukhoi-24's and other aircraft which could reach Israel without refueling are currently in Iran.

The key to understanding this point is the Iraqi loss of control over their airspace. In fact, the Iraqi Air Force has lost control of its planes, logistics installations, and control and inspection centers. That is why its ability to carry out any kind of operation—including one against us—has significantly diminished. If in the initial stages of war it could send dozens of planes against us, the number today is significantly smaller.

Still, the aerial threat should be viewed as a viable danger. A single kamikaze plane coming here with a load of chemical bombs could cause damage equal to a torrent of Scuds. That is why, despite the decline in the threat, we operate on the basis of the worst-case scenario and continue to invest a lot in defending Israel's skies. We have deployed many antiaircraft missiles, and our planes are in the air around the clock. Ever since the beginning of the war, we have spent thousands of expensive air hours to avoid being surprised.

[Ben-Yishay] Does the reinforcement of the Patriot missile batteries not significantly reduce the aerial threat?

[Bin-Nun] Only to a certain extent. We have not given the Americans the authorization to intercept planes, because of problems of coordination and control over Israel's airspace. The Israeli-manned Patriot batteries alone take part in defending Israel's skies. The Americans are here for one purpose only: shooting down missiles.

[Ben-Yishay] Was the transfer of the Iraqi planes to Iran coordinated with the Iranians?

[Bin-Nun] It may have started as an uncoordinated move. Today, however, it is definitely coordinated. I would not be surprised if, at some stage, the Iranians were to find some excuse to return the planes and pilots to Iraq so that they could go on fighting. The Iranians are constantly on the alert to determine when the Americans move on to the next stage. If, for example, the Americans hit a sacred Shiite city, or if the Iraqis deliberately provoke them to hit such a city, the Iranians would see that as an excuse to actively help Iraq. They are providing massive assistance already today along their common border. Passage there is quite free, and the world is openly ignoring it, just as it is ignoring the assistance Jordan is giving Iraq.

[Ben-Yishay] Are you taking very seriously the Iranian promises not to allow the Iraqi planes and pilots to go back to Iraq until the war is over?

[Bin-Nun] I will be watching very closely everything that is going on there. It is possible that the coordinated move was meant to sustain an Iraqi air force for the final act of engaging in ground combat. In a while the Americans will stop attacking the airports and underground hangars and will open an offensive against the Iraqi ground forces. It is possible that the Iraqi planes would then gradually sneak back into Iraq and appear in the theater.

[Ben-Yishay] Is it possible that those plane could appear against us?

[Bin-Nun] If we are involved in the fighting, the Iranians could possibly view our involvement as an excuse to release the Iraqi planes and pilots. They have already said clearly that Israel's entering the war would cause them to enter on Iraq's side. We must be careful, therefore, not to give the Iranians an excuse to make such a move.

[Ben-Yishay] What is your evaluation of the effectiveness of the new American weapon systems deployed in the Gulf?

[Bin-Nun] Generally it could be said that technology is making this war. There are a few bugs that need to be worked out, and the systems are being studied during the operation, but a weapon system such as the F-117 is doing exactly what is expected of it. It comes at night above the antiaircraft missiles, strikes target after target, and leaves unseen.

[Ben-Yishay] Would you like to buy them?

[Bin-Nun] It is currently irrelevant, I believe.

[Ben-Yishay] How do you evaluate the achievements of the U.S. Air Force over the past two weeks.

[Bin-Nun] I think it has been a bit slow to learn some things, but their achievements are increasing constantly. To sum up the past two weeks, I view the ability demonstrated and the results achieved as very good. If the Americans remain patient and take the time they need, it will be proven that air power and supremacy can determine the course of a war.

[Ben-Yishay] How much time do you think is still needed?

[Bin-Nun] It is hard to say. It depends on the U.S. tactics and distribution of forces. In any case, I believe it will not exceed two weeks.

[Ben-Yishay] In your opinion, what is the overall threat to Israel from what Saddam Husayn still has?

[Bin-Nun] There has been a significant decline in his ability. All he has left today is a potential sporadic attack by planes or missiles. The key question—to which we have no clear answer—is whether he has chemical ability.

Had we known for certain that he has no chemical missile capability, we could have said that the threat is small. I believe it is worth paying a certain price to allow the Americans go on with what they are doing in Iraq undisturbed.

[Ben-Yishay] After the war, will you want a differently equipped Air Force?

[Bin-Nun] If you examine our multi-year plan of procurement and power buildup, you will see that we have already suggested the answers to several implications of the events in the Gulf. If we prepare properly, as we planned, we will be able to reach a situation where the force that determines the results of the war, with minimum erosion of ground and naval forces, will be air power. It seems to me that the model the Americans are following in the Gulf is the right one.

Netanyahu Views Post Gulf Crisis, Germany

TA0202194091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor; date, place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Mr. Netanyahu, according to various reports, the United States intends to again set in motion the political process in the Middle East. What does Jerusalem know about it?

[Netanyahu] This has been verified to us by the U.S. administration, which also promised us that it has no intention of establishing linkage—meaning, the end of the Gulf war is one issue, the things that will happen later are another. Naturally, we have our own ideas on how to make progress in the era after the Gulf crisis. We believe that in all that is related to the Israeli- Arab conflict we must first and foremost approach the end of the state of belligerence. Today Iraq has declared that this is the situation between us; this is the situation the Arab world, with the exclusion of Egypt, has been forcing upon us for the past 42 years. This has to change as soon as the war in the Gulf is over.

[Ganor] The aid from Germany has begun arriving. Does it satisfy us?

[Netanyahu] Of course we welcome the German aid. It is important. In my opinion it expresses both the bilateral relations between us and a general interest of the West in stabilizing the Middle East. At the same time I wish to make one thing clear: There is no connection between this and Germany's washing its hands of the shameful things German companies have done. We have asked, and were promised quite explicitly, that the German Government will put an end to it. We want Germany to introduce much stronger legislation against trading in such weapons with Saddam Husayn. They made that promise and kept their word. Also we would like to see their laws enforced. This is to say that we want the companies that violated these laws put on trial. The third thing we are asking is that the German officials who committed the evil be put on trial as well. This is what the German Government should do, and not only it, unfortunately. [passage omitted]

Lebanese 'Terrorist' Deployment, Army Viewed

TA0302184791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Me'ir Kohen; time and place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Kohen] Mr. Lubrani, what information do we have on terrorist deployment in Lebanon and the current situation?

[Lubrani] Okay, well, they have a deployment that is already quite established. Today they have between 5,000 and 6,000 terrorists deployed from Sidon and southwards—I think this is out of a total of approximately 11,000 Palestinian terrorists stationed in Lebanon. Their headquarters are mainly in Sidon, Tyre, and Rashidiyah, south of Tyre. There is an additional deployment in an area to the east of Sidon known to us as Iqlim al-Tuffah. There they also have a deployment that today serves as their front line base for launching activities against us.

[Kohen] Sakhr Habash, a member of the PLO leadership, announced the PLO's responsibility for launching the katyushas and the PLO's decision to open a second front againt Israel in south Lebanon. Is this true?

[Lubrani] First of all, they have admitted things at last. At one point they denied it, then 'Arafat denied it, and now they are admitting it. We know that they are acting on the orders of Saddam Husayn. By this activity, 'Arafat wants to demonstrate his solidarity with Iraq and we, of course, are aware of this situation and have no intention of accepting it. We will do all we can to prevent such a front. This talk of a front is nonsense—there is no front and there will be no front. Nevertheless, they will try to carry this threat out. We have an account to settle with them, which up to now has not been settled.

[Kohen] I understand that Lebanese National Defense Minister Albert Mansur has warned Israel not to interfere with the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon. Will the Lebanese Army indeed be permitted to deploy in southern Lebanon?

[Lubrani] Before anything else, I would suggest that before making threats, the distinguished new Lebanese defense minister should learn to speak his mind freely and not merely repeat instructions he has received from Syria.

Second, our position on the Lebanese Army has been made clear. I would only like to add that our precondition for a favorable attitude toward the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south is that this army must guarantee in advance that there will be no terrorist activity from the areas in which it is deployed. Today, terrorist activity takes place from the areas in which it wishes to deploy. Mr. Mansur maintains contacts with the PLO and has asked for the PLO's permission to move southwards. Such a state of affairs is not to our liking.

Territories' Arab Support for Iraq Discussed

TA0102215991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Yoni Ben-Menahem on 1 February; place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Besides Dr. Sari Nusaybah, several residents of Judaea and Samaria have been detained for having relayed information to Iraq on the Scud missiles. What is at stake here?

[Goren] One should see these cases against the background of the PLO's demand for residents of the territories to carry out terror, violence, and disturbances, as well as to pass on classified information so that the PLO can then pass it on to the Iraqis. There are such cases, and these cases will be handled in accordance with the law.

[Ben-Menahem] Have you been able to foil most or all these cases?

[Goren] I do not want to elaborate here. I have said that anybody caught doing so will be treated according to the law, and I do not want to add a single word.

[Ben-Menahem] Is the PLO trying to incite the territories' population into joining Iraq's struggle?

[Goren] We have witnessed such calls, too, including the use of mosques for incitement. We have adopted several measures to prevent this situation. I would like to seize this opportunity to tell the population to be cautious and not to listen to instigation or rumors. The same applies to broadcasts heard from Arab countries, most of which are tendentious and incorrect. It will be very bad if mosques or institutes are used to stage disturbances. Regrettably, those who will suffer as a result are the residents of the territories.

[Ben-Menahem] Is the defense establishment afraid that if the curfew is lifted the population will be swept into a wave of violence?

[Goren] We do entertain this fear indeed, and this is the main, if not the only, reason for the imposition of the curfew. In the meantime, the curfew has justified itself in most cases. It is a fact that the population is relatively quiet.

[Ben-Menahem] Why will you not allow an organized exit of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza laborers to work in Israel?

[Goren] This is connected to the subject we have just discussed. At this stage, we are unable to open the territories for work in Israel. We would have liked to do so very much, not necessarily in order to provide employment inside Israel, but because this is a very good way to ease the life of the population. Unfortunately, we cannot do this. We are considering the matter, and when we can we will.

[Ben-Menahem] How long is it possible to keep such a large number of people under curfew?

[Goren] As long as possible, as long as necessary.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Goren, there have been complaints about a shortage of food in several Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza places. The UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] is distributing food. Is there a shortage of food as a result of the war?

[Goren] No, there is no shortage. It is difficult to bring in the food, of course, and we extend a great deal of help in this context. Still, there is no shortage of food, nor is there hunger. UNRWA is more cooperative with us today. It distributes food to the needy, and the Civilian Administration, particularly in Judaea and Samaria, supplements this for needy people who are not refugees or who live farther away from refugee camps. These people are assisted by our aid institutions.

[Ben-Menahem] Can you continue to supply food to the population for a long time, even if it continues to be subject to a curfew?

[Goren] No doubt about that. We will see to it that there is no hunger, nor will it be necessary to bring food in from the outside. The arrangements made by the Civilian Administration today meet the problem: There is no hunger, nor shortage of food.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Goren, one of the problems of the population is the shortage of cash. People stopped working both in Israel and in the territories as a result of the curfew, and there is a shortage of money. How do you intend to handle this issue?

[Goren] As I have mentioned, we can help needy families. They will receive food to prevent hunger, and as for those who want to bring in money from abroad, we will make special arrangements to enable them to do so.

[Ben-Menahem] Who is free to move during the time of the curfew today? Who receives your permission to move during the curfew?

[Goren] A large number of people: All those in the municipal, health, and aid systems, or general people who take care of the population. I am happy to note that we have a very large number of people who are prepared to assist in caring for this population, a very large number who are cooperative with us. We have no problem in this regard. In short, there are very large numbers of people who are free to move during curfew hours, too, to prevent the population from suffering beyond what is called for by the security constraints.

Peretz: Immigration Forecasts No Longer Realistic

TA3101142391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 91 p 14

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] Attending a tree-planting ceremony with new immigrants in Jerusalem yesterday, Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said: "The drop in the number of immigrants is not temporary, and is not a result of the Gulf war."

Rabbi Peretz added: "Just today I learned from reliable and authoritative sources that not only the number of immigrants but also the number of applications submitted by Soviet Jews has dropped. We had better read the writing on the wall, lest aliyah is adversely affected."

According to him, predictions of 300,000 to 400,000 immigrants a year are no longer realistic because of absorption hardships.

German-Funded Submarine To Be Completed Late

TA0302084791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Israeli military sources have said that the completion of the submarine project by Germany will be delayed by three months as a result of its cancellation several months ago and its present renewal in accordance with the German Government's decision.

Our army affairs correspondent Amir Fink reports that most of the Israeli technical team, who participated in the Dolphin submarine development, are still at the German shipyards. In recent months, the team members were busy finalizing the submarines' technical specifications as a step toward the possible reopening of the project at a later stage, as is presently being done.

German financing will cover the cost of the production of platforms and the warfare systems. In fact, it will cover all the equipment manufactured in Germany for the two Dolphin submarines.

Israeli Navy sources expressed great satisfaction at the renewal of the submarine project.

Energy Minister Views Attack on Fuel Tankers

NC0202153491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Feb 91 pp 1, 15

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Excerpt] Amman—Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Thabit al-Tahir has stressed that the UN Security Council resolution does not apply to the transport of oil from Iraq to Jordan in fuel tankers.

He told AL-DUSTUR: The recent UN Security Council resolutions do not apply to the transport of oil to Jordan in fuel tankers. The attacks on the fuel tankers, which resulted in the martyrdom of a number of drivers, are rejected and condemned, especially as they were civilian vehicles and as such excluded from the UN Security Council resolutions, and because neither logic nor conscience can accept aggression.

The minister said that Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has held contacts with the ambassadors of the UN Security Council member states accredited to Jordan to convey Jordan's concern over and denunciation of this aggression and the government's protest against the attack on fuel tankers.

Answering AL-DUSTUR's question about Jordan's current reserves, al-Tahir said: Praise be to God, we have sufficient quantities of oil. However, we call on the people to rationalize their use of oil at the current stage. We are certain that the citizens will respond to the Council of Ministers' decision in this regard. [passage omitted]

Solon Urges Returning U.S. Ambassador

JN0402075491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Lower House of Parliament's member Bassam Haddadin Sunday called on the government to send the American ambassador to his country in protest against the repeated air raids on Jordanian property and people. In a statement issued Sunday, Haddadin said the second brutal aggression on Jordanian trucks and oil tanks demonstrated the hatred the U.S. harboured to Jordanians because of their support for Iraq and its condemnation of aggression on Iraq.

Editorial Condemns Attacks

NC0202161591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Feb 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Arab Individual Washington Does Not Know"]

[Text] We were not surprised by the statements made by American officials in Washington yesterday in response to Jordan's protest over last week's bombing by American military aircraft of civilian vehicles and fuel tankers on the desert road that links Jordan to Iraq and other neighboring Arab countries.

Ever since the London-based newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published its infamous lie early last week about the transport of Iraqi al- Husayn missiles aboard Jordanian fuel tankers, a lie which was broadcast by Riyadh radio, we had expected that the forces that are plotting against Iraq would try to provoke Jordan in one way or another to punish it for its brave pan-Arab stand toward the sinful war that is currently raging in the Gulf.

Although we were not surprised by the American bombing of the Jordanian civilian vehicles and the refugees' cars and the killing of their passengers, particularly now that the bombing of civilian targets in Baghdad and the pounding of peasants' houses in Iraq's rural areas with missiles have become standard procedure for the "brave" American pilots who carry the message of the new world order Mr. Bush has promised the Middle East peoples, the U.S. Defense Department spokesman's interpretation of the attack on the Jordanian fuel tankers set a new standard for the lies to which we have become accustomed from American officials and their audacity in reversing their earlier statements. The official spokesman claimed that the air raid targeted Iraqi "Scud" missiles and that the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq banned the movement of fuel tankers inside Iraq. We do not know where Mr. Williams got this strange interpretation of the economic embargo resolutions against Iraq, or how he included a ban on the movement of the fuel tankers inside Iraq itself. Moreover, we do not know how we could squeeze missiles inside fuel tankers to send them to Jordan, when logic would indicate that these missiles should remain on their launching pads to be fired at their targets from inside Iraq.

We know it is useless to use logic and reason when dealing with official American spokesmen when the aim is to justify the current crime in any way, even if this requires the invention of lies and the fabrication of stories that conflict with logic and reason. We can conclude from the American statements issued yesterday on this subject that the United States apparently was fed up with Jordan's neutrality in the war and with the Jordanian news media, which are publishing the full facts about what is happening in the Gulf battlefield and which are exposing the American media themselves. Thus, the United States has decided to increase the economic siege it has imposed on Jordan since the beginning of the Gulf crisis by preventing Iraqi oil supplies from reaching Jordan, although the Security Council accepted such supplies.

We are not going to discuss our principled position on the Gulf crisis with the Americans; we have no need to explain it or apologize for it to anyone. As the United States punishes the Jordanian people for their position, we remind it that this position was the fruit of democracy chosen by our king and people. It is the same democracy that the United States itself welcomed at the beginning and at that it is now fighting covertly and overtly. Why? Because it is a genuine democracy stemming from the conscience of the people and from the depths of their hearts and because it is a democracy that refuses to be placed the U.S. hegemony.

Several days ago, the U.S. President addressed Congress on the virtues of democracy. He claimed that his country is carrying the banner of democracy, but forgot to add that the democracy that his country accepts is the one that bows to the U.S. influence, that is tied to the United States, and that becomes a U.S. satellite. If this is not the case, why is democracy in Jordan being punished with the current siege? Why has the United States reduced aid to Yemen, which is exercising democracy on a large scale? Why was the United States frightened by the introduction of democracy in Algeria? The reason is clear. These democracies do not meet U.S. specifications, as they refuse to become satellites of U.S. policy.

Jordan is fully aware of the size of the bribe it would have received had it agreed to become involved in the U.S. plot to deal a blow to Iraq. We know that our foreign debts would have been canceled with a stroke of the pen, that the siege would have been lifted, that the oil takers would have moved about safely, and that aid and money would have poured into Jordan from all directions, as they are pouring into the U.S. allies in the Gulf war. This is the largest sale of consciences in history. We are also aware of the U.S. heaven and hell and its carrot and stick. Did Mr. Bush ask himself: Why do small or poor nations like Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, and Mauritania as well as oppressed nations like the Palestinian people support Iraq and refuse to prefer the U.S. heaven to its hell?

The answer can be summed up, O Mr. Bush, in one word: Honor! These poor, needy nations are defending their honor and that of the Arab nation by supporting Iraq, and they refuse to tarnish their honor and history by standing by the side of the United States and Israel. This is the heart of the matter, Mr. Bush!

We know that the United States has a colossal military force and that it has become the only world superpower following the collapse of the Soviet Union. We also know that it can tighten its grip on the Third World nations that disagree with it. We know all this, but we also know that our history is replete with stories about the value of honor, dignity, struggle against the unjust, facing difficulties, and seeking martyrdom for the sake of God and the homeland. These stories give us the wherewithal to endure pain and to make sacrifices patiently and courageously for the sake of right, justice, dignity, and freedom.

As a result of the Gulf crisis, Mr. Bush may have received a false picture of the Arab individual through his dealings with some Arab officials. But here in Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mauritania and throughout the Arab and Islamic countries, we offer him a true picture of the Muslim Arab individual, who rejects injustice, and we also make him hear the real heartbeat of the Arab and Islamic peoples everywhere. This picture may not satisfy him, but it is the accurate one and it will not allow itself to be dominated. Despite what is happening in the Gulf, Bush will find himself obliged to deal with this picture respectfully in the future without using the language of threat and intimidation and without attempts at domination, oppression, and enslavement.

Allied 'Intimidation' Examined

*NC0102231391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
1 Feb 91 p 1*

[Editorial: "The Allies' Aircraft and the Jordanian Fuel Trucks"]

[Text] Contrary to all international laws, including the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians during war, aircraft of the aggressive coalition did not hesitate to bomb a number of the Jordanian fuel trucks and civilian cars that were coming from Iraq last Tuesday and Wednesday. It is clear that this bombardment constitutes a link in the chain of barbaric practices and big mistakes committed by this coalition in dealing with the Gulf crisis. Among these big mistakes is the belief that this aggressive action against the Jordanian fuel trucks and cars would force Jordan to relinquish its peaceful and pan-Arab stand toward the crisis. What calls for astonishment is that the aggressors know full well that Jordan's commitment to this stand is a principled one, and that incitement and intimidation cannot stop Jordan from pursuing its position. Despite this, they have not learned anything from what they know, and they carried out an act of piracy that is condemned by all international laws.

From the very beginning of the Gulf crisis, Jordan has adopted a civilized and pan-Arab stand, and sought a peaceful solution to this crisis. However, those who had intentions of escalating the crisis and igniting war were lying in wait for Jordan's endeavors, and were determined to abort them and push the region toward the serious impasse which it currently faces.

When the aggression began, Jordan warned that bloodshed does not pave the way for peace, and it continues to strongly call for an immediate cease-fire to give a chance to and enough time for political and diplomatic efforts to contain the crisis and to achieve a peaceful solution to, taking into consideration that the international legitimacy should be applied to all the region's issues. The real state of affairs has proved the soundness of this warning, and the continuation of the aggression only expands and prolongs the war and causes a formidable pollution of environment. The allies had better respond to Jordan's peace calls, and not pounce on its fuel tanks and civilian cars coming from Iraq in a barbaric bombardment that caused the martyrdom and wounding of innocent citizens.

At any rate, Jordan will continue to be committed to its peaceful pan-Arab position. It is determined to bravely confront any pressures it might be exposed to, including those pressures aimed at its energy resources. Our family will undoubtedly respond fully to the government's arrangements to rationalize the use of fuel, and will prove, as has always been the case, that it is strong in confronting challenges and in positively adapting to any requirements necessitated by the circumstances of the stage we are currently experiencing.

Buying Oil From Syria, Reserves Examined

JN0302100791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 91 p 4

["Sundays's Economic Pulse" by Fahd al-Fanik: "Oil Weapon Used Against Jordan]

[Text] The air raids that hit five Jordanian land tankers this week while transporting crude oil from Iraq to Jordan left four drivers killed and others injured and deprived Jordan from its only source of oil. They were another manifestation of using the oil weapon for political ends.

For reasons well understood, the West was always against using oil as political weapon. The Arabs used this weapon only once in 1973, to deter the unjust support of America and the West to the Israeli aggression against Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Since then the Arab oil was never used as a political weapon, even when justification for such use was very obvious.

It is now America that is using oil weapon to extract political gains at the expense of Jordan's national will. This is a dangerous step in the longer run because it sets a precedent for the future.

To set the record straight, we should first point out the fact that Jordan already secured the written consent of the Special Sanctions Committee of the Security Council to import oil from Iraq as an exception from the sanctions imposed on trade with Iraq.

The flow of oil to Jordan was carried out by Jordanian tankers, driven by Jordanian citizens, on an international highway, therefore it was not a legitimate target for the military aircrafts of the American-Zionist coalition.

Jordan is definitely entitled to full compensation and apology, but under the circumstances, Jordan will not apply to the International Court of Justice. It will not ask for more than an explanation and an assurance that the ugly action will not be repeated.

Jordan depends 100 per cent on imported oil for all its energy needs. It consumes around 22 million barrels a year or 60,000 barrels per day. Jordan's strategic reserve of crude oil is minimal. It can hardly cover three weeks consumption in normal circumstances.

Jordan will of course have to look for alternative sources for oil. The only available source under the current circumstances is Syria. The Prime Minister already secured Syrian undertaking to come to Jordan's help in case of an Israeli aggression or oil supplies interruption. Most likely, Jordan will start buying the oil from Syria as of this week.

Jordan used to take the oil from Iraq either free or at a concessionary price. No cash payment was involved, as Jordan only gave credit to Iraq against its old debt. Now Jordan will be required to pay Syria in foreign exchange, based on the international oil price which is fortunately not very high at the moment, but the price of the Syrian crude oil will put the Jordanian economy under more pressure.

The purpose of the aggression against our fleet of land tankers was to punish the Jordanian people for expressing their real feelings. American politicians were apparently under the impression that Jordan will shift its position under the impact of oil weapon. Nothing could be more wrong. The Jordanian people knew in advance that if they line up in the wrong side, they will be rewarded in billions of dollars. They are ready to accept sacrifices for being honest with their national feelings. Oil or no oil, Jordan will continue to be for peace and dialogue, and against war, destruction and foreign intervention.

America would be better off abiding by the international law, and refraining from aggression against Jordan's oil supplies, which were flowing by virtue of decisions taken by the United Nations.

Let us hope that the accident was a mistake by the military command, and that the wrong will be corrected without much delay.

U.S. Charge of Sanctions Violation Rejected

JN0302084291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 91 pp 1,2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian officials Sunday rejected American charges that the Kingdom's imports of Iraqi oil in lieu of Baghdad's debts to Amman constituted a violation of the international sanctions against Iraq.

The officials also reaffirmed that Jordan would defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and would not permit any party to violate its airspace regardless of what Israel has to say about it.

"As a sovereign state, we will not allow anyone to cross our airspace and territory," said a senior official referring to a "warning" to Jordan issued by the chief of Israel's air force Friday saying that the Kingdom's air force would better stay out if the Jewish state's warplanes used Jordanian airspace to strike at Iraq in retaliation for Iraqi missile strike against Israeli cities.

"It is an escalation of rhetorics," said the official referring to the statement by Major-General Avihu Bin-Nun. "It is more of a political statement. They (Israel) want to say that they have the capability and they would not allow anyone to escape punishment for attacking them."

But, the official reaffirmed, "we cannot tell them 'you have frightened us... so go ahead and pass..."

In any event, the official added, "we still don't know what the Israeli air force can add to the American or (the allied) air force that is hitting very hard" at Iraq.

The official also said Jordan was trying "very hard to stay out of war" despite "pressures from both inside and outside."

"One is pulling this way and the other one is pulling the other way," he said in reference to popular sentiments in support for Iraq in its confrontation with the American-led coalition of 28 countries. "Everybody should understand that it is important for the stability of the area to keep Jordan politically stable. If Jordan goes one way or the other that will not be in the interests of stability in the region."

Jordan's rejection of the American contention that Amman was violating sanctions against Iraq by buying oil from its eastern neighbour came from another highly placed source.

"Jordan has always understood and maintained that the importation of oil and oil derivatives from Iraq without payment in cash was not a violation of the U.N. sanctions," said the source.

"Sanctions are not an end in themselves but a means to an end, namely bringing pressure on the state against which sanctions are ordered," the source pointed out. "It is no secret that Jordan, which has not been left with suitable alternate sources to secure oil for its domestic oil needs, was obtaining its oil from Iraq because otherwise its economy will come to a standstill," added the source, preferring anonymity.

The comment came in direct response to a statement made by Margaret Tutwiler, a State Department spokeswoman, who said Friday that the U.S. administration viewed Jordan's import of oil from Iraq as a "clear violation" of Security Council Resolution 661, which imposed economic sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The statement followed allied air attacks on oil tankers bound for Jordan last week. At least nine tankers were attacked Tuesday and Wednesday and five Jordanians and one Egyptian were killed and at least 12 others were wounded in the attacks, carried out between the Iraqi desert town of al-Rutbah and the border post of Tirbil, 75 kilometres northeast of the Jordanian border at al-Ruwayshid.

Jordan would be committing "economic suicide" if it cut off its oil supply from Iraq in view of the fact that it has no other suitable alternatives, the source told the Jordan Times. "No one will entertain the thought that (Jordan's oil imports) from Iraq were in violation of the sanctions (against Iraq)," he said.

Another senior official also pointed out that "Iraq was not benefitting from supplying oil to Jordan" since the supplies were being made in settlement of Iraq's debts to Jordan. Baghdad owed $310 million in outstanding dues to Jordan and was paying monthly instalments of $12 million prior to the invasion of Kuwait.

"For the past six months, Jordan, with the knowledge of all members of the Security Council, has been importing its oil needs from Iraq without payment in cash," the source pointed out. "We do not think it is a violation of the sanctions...," he said.

Senior U.N. officials, in Amman as well as at the world body's headquarters in New York, have gone on record saying that Jordan had little choice but to import oil from Iraq in view of the economic conditions of the Kingdom, thrown into chaos by the direct and indirect consequences of the Gulf crisis and the adherence to the embargo against Iraq.

Another senior official said in informal and formal contacts with Washington since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Jordan was given to understand that the U.S., "while not approving the Kingdom's position, was also not objecting to its oil imports from Iraq."

The allied attacks on oil tankers and the new American position on the oil issue are "the latest links in the chain of political pressure applied on Jordan for its refusal to join the war camp against Iraq," the official said.

"There cannot be any other explanation since they knew very well that we did not have suitable alternative arrangements and that we had informed the U.N. Sanctions Committee of our position," the official told the Jordan Times.

"They did not inform us of their objections, if any, and the attack on the tankers came as a total shock and surprise to us," the official said. "After all, the issue could have been discussed and they could have conveyed their position to us if they wanted to," added the official.

Informing Parliament of the attacks on the tankers, Foreign Minsiter Tahir al-Masri Wednesday said he had lodged strong protests with the American ambassador as well as the ambassadors of the four other permanent members of the Security Council. He also said he had made it clear that Jordan would respond to such attacks, if repeated, in the manner it deemed fit.

Official Affirms Oil Excluded

JN0402084291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Feb 91 pp 1, 15

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] The barbaric U.S. aggression on Jordanian oil trucks and civilian vehicles on the Amman-Baghdad highway is a clear declaration that the American aggression is not aimed only against Iraq but also against the Arab and Islamic nation and all the honorable people rejecting the aggression, which is designed to destroy the nation's destinies.

The aggression is a flagrant violation by the United States and its allies of all international charters and norms.

The Jordanian Government has contacted the concerned states and international bodies to clarify the dimensions of the current aggression to which Jordan is being exposed—aggression designed to further pressure Jordan into changing its objection to the policy of destruction and starvation pursued by the United States and its allies.

In reply to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, a high level Jordanian official said that the UN Security Council did not reject Jordan's request to import oil from Iraq and agreed to exclude Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan from the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. He added that there is a Security Council document proving the exclusion.

On this basis, he said, we continued to import Iraqi oil with the knowledge of all sides, including the United States, because the United Nations and the concerned states understand the special situation in Jordan and the difficulty of finding alternative sources of oil.

He added that the passage of five months on this situation is enough to indicate the soundness of our legal position in the eyes of all the world countries, including the United States itself.

He also said that Europe's decision to extend aid to Jordan as a state harmed by the economic blockade on Iraq is further evidence of Jordan's commitment to and implementation of the UN Security Council's resolutions, foremost of which is the economic blockade.

Concluding, the official said that the U.S. State Department spokeswoman did not answer a question specifically about the existence of a document at the Security Council excluding Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan from the blockade and that the document can be obtained from the Security Council by anyone wishing to see it.

JORDAN TIMES Editorial

JN0302084591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Be Light, Not Fire"]

[Text] One expects a self-proclaimed superpower to be "a light unto the nations." The U.S. is certainly a superpower, but sadly it is more of a fire than light.

Consider if you will, the relationship between that huge, powerful country and a small country like Jordan. Right from the beginning of the Gulf crisis, Jordan maintained a stance that opposed the acquisition of land by force, recognised international legitimacy, abided by Security Council resolutions and, at the same time, rejected foreign intervention in the affairs of the region and the resort to force in solving regional conflicts. This Jordanian stand is based on a long tradition that Jordan applied to the other, older conflict of Lebanon, Palestine and as far back as 1961 Kuwait.

Abiding by Security Council Resolution 661 not to trade with Iraq, Jordan started importing all of its oil from Saudi Arabia on Sept. 1. Only 19 days later, the Saudis, acting in concert apparently with its "Big Brother," decided to cut the supply to Jordan on baseless grounds. With "silent" consent from the Americans, and with a waiver from the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee, Jordan started again to import its oil needs from Iraq, against money that country owes to the Kingdom. The arrangement went on for nearly five months, until the Americans and their allies last week bombed Jordanian oil tankers killing five Jordanians, one Egyptian and injuring 12 others.

Asked why allied jet fighters would attack Jordanian tankers, the U.S. State Department spokeswomen, Margaret Tutwiler, said Jordan was violating the Security Council's sanctions resolution. When further asked if the U.S. knew if Jordan had special permission to import oil from Iraq, Tutwiler replied: "No, we do not."

The fact that the U.S. did not know if Jordan had permission to import oil from Iraq and yet went ahead with bombing our tankers is only an indication of that superpower's disrespect and disregard for any world order, including the one it claims to defend. Had the U.S. been more responsible and less arrogant, it would have taken the trouble to check with the Security Council committee to ascertain whether Jordan was acting properly and legally before its air force killed innocent Jordanians and other civilians and destroyed their property.

Americans can continue to shoot from the hip in their own backyard if they so wish, but further irresponsible actions by their administration in this part of the world can only aggravate the already explosive situation and widen the war front irretrievably.

Jordan had all along warned against starting war against Iraq, and ever since fighting erupted the Kingdom has been urging an immediate ceasefire and the start of negotiations, not just to save Iraqi lives but American and European lives as well. That call is all the more urgent today, considering that America may be beginning to lose touch with reality and reasonableness.

million is also contingent on a parallel loan of an equal amount from the World Bank.

King, Yemeni President Discuss Gulf War by Phone

NC0402125391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone conversation today with His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen. During the conversation, they exchanged views on the general situation in light of developments in the Gulf war.

Prince Hasan Comments on Turkish Gulf Policy

NC3101203491 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 28 Jan 91 p 11

[Enis Berberoglu and Eyup Coskun report: "Turkey is Breaking Away From the Region"]

[Text] Amman (HURRIYET)—Crown Prince Hasan Ibn-Talal, who has been King Husayn's spokesman on Gulf war developments, has reproached Turkey. He said: "Turgut Ozal, who is our old friend and an engineer by profession, has said that he is able to make calculations just like a calculator. However, the future of the Middle East cannot be expressed in terms of mathematical equations."

Noting that he was concerned that a clash might occur between the Arab world and President Turgut Ozal, Prince Hasan said: "God forbid, this would be very tragic."

Ankara Criticized

Prince Hasan replied to questions put to him by a group of Turkish journalists at the Royal Palace. He criticized Ankara's policy on the Gulf war as follows: "We have been deeply saddened by the news that B-52 and F-111 aircraft have taken off from a number of bases in Turkey to bomb targets in Iraq. The Turkish Government has said that Turkey will not take part in the war if it is not attacked by Iraq. However, highly destructive arms are being used against Iraq. This development indicates an 'operation outside the NATO sphere' for the first time. Turkey is changing its status as NATO's southern wing to become a southern frontline country. I recall President Ozal, who is our old friend and an engineer by profession, as saying 'I am like a calculator. I can make correct calculations on future developments.' However, I am afraid that the future of the region cannot be expressed in terms of mathematical equations. We are talking about human beings and about a very high number of civilian casualties. The people are becoming impatient. God forbid, a clash between the Islamic world and President Turgut Ozal would be very tragic. The differences must be resolved before it is too late."

The Approach Has Changed

Prince Hasan answered a question on the role Turkey may have in the region after the war ends as follows: "Turkey is one of the leading NATO countries. Furthermore, it is making an effort to become an EC member. In view of this, it can become an important partner in the Middle East. We regarded Turkey as a bridge between the Middle East and Europe before the war began. We trusted Turkey's objective approach. Under the existing conditions, doubts and rumors about Turkey's stand have increased. For example, relations between the FRG and Israel significantly strengthened after Turkey criticized the FRG for supplying chemical weapons to Iraq. This is very interesting. I have been trying for the past 20 years to remove the mistrust between Turkey and the Arab countries, a mistrust linked with the past. However, similar fears have suddenly surfaced once again."

Prince Hasan explained that the Iraqi missiles launched against Israel have established a link between the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf crisis. He asserted: "In fact, by disclosing that it is prepared to discuss the Palestinian problem, Israel has confirmed this link."

Palestinian Envoy Comments on Israel, Linkage

JN3101100291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan-1 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Since the beginning of the American aggression on Iraq on Jan. 17, the Israeli authorities have been imposing a blanket curfew on occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and preventing 1.75 million people from going to work or conducting business to earn their livelihood, according to Palestine Ambassador to Jordan, Abu-al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim.

The ambassador said that the Israelis have at the same time launched an arrest campaign throughout the occupied territories detaining hundreds of young men, unionists, writers, academicians and workers.

Sari Nusaybah, Faysal al-Husayni and Shaykh Muhammad al-Jamal were among the prominent Palestinian personalities arrested in the recent campaign designed to intimidate the local population, he said.

By so doing, the Israelis have underlined the linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question and by escalating repressive measures against the Palestinians, the Zionists have proved that their measures to suppress the intifada were futile, said the ambassador in a statment here Wednesday.

Referring to the situation in southern Lebananon, 'Abd-al-Rahim said that Israeli forces and war planes have been maintaining constant attacks on the Palestinian people living there and the clashes between the local population and the Palestinians on the one hand and the Israelis on the other have rarely ceased during the Gulf crisis.

As the aggression continues on Iraq, the Israelis have maintained their brutal attacks on southern Lebanon's Palestinian camps thus proving to the world the active participation of the Israeli enemy in the ongoing onslaught on Iraq, the ambassador added.

Asked on the role of the United Nations to provide protection to the Palestinians the ambassador said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has lately sent out notes to the U.N. secretary-general drawing the attention of the Security Council members to the danger inherent in the continued curfews and the acts of terrorism exercised by the Israeli government and Jewish settlers.

Asked to comment on reports that the Israeli authorities were preventing the return of the Palestinians from Jordan to their homeland under occupation, the ambassador said that the measures were part of the ongoing harassments and inhuman treatment on the part of Israel.

Earlier reports said that the Palestinians under Israeli rule have been prevented from harvesting their crops and that many of the sick were dying while food supplies were running short.

According to the ambassador, the Palestinians' losses from such practices were estimated at $30 million.

War Developments, U.S.-Soviet Communique Viewed

NC0202021591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jan 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Iraqi Victories and the Political Initiatives Are In the Balance"]

[Text] After tens of thousands of air raids and missile attacks by the alliance of the American aggression on Baghdad and other Iraqi cities and villages failed to achieve any military or moral gain against Iraq, it has become clear to everyone that the alliance of aggression has lost in the air battle. There is still a weak card—the ground battle—in the hands of the Bush administration, which is hesitating to use it for fear that it may also fail, especially since Iraq's superiority on the ground has become very clear to the American alliance.

It is also clear that the Iraqi forces' ability to thrust deep into Saudi Arabia from three fronts, to achieve their military goals, to enter the city of al-Khafji, to inflict heavy losses on the forces of aggression, and to penetrate further into Saudi Arabia proves Iraq's overwhelming superiority in any ground confrontation. This also indicates that the defeat of the forces of aggression is inevitable.

It seems that two weeks after the breakout of the aggressive war against Iraq, President Bush and his allies discovered their dangerous involvement in a losing war. So now they have begun reconsidering their calculations, and are searching for a guaranteed, face-saving way out of their difficult crisis in order to preserve what they can of their countries' dignity. We believe that the recent Soviet move came at the request of and even in coordination with the Bush administration, and that the recent communique issued following a meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers also indicates and even confirms that coordination.

But the content of the American-Soviet communique refers to a total misunderstanding of the Iraqi position, and also reveals a complete failure to understand the nature of the region's disputes, particularly the Arab-Zionist dispute.

The American-Soviet communique includes a promise by both sides to make efforts to solve the Arab-Zionist dispute, but not a real pledge to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions on the region's issues, foremost of which is the Palestine question. This reflects the lack of seriousness of the expected Soviet initiative and bias toward the U.S. position, since it considers Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait its top priority.

Before launching any initiatives, it is better for the Soviets or any other side to fully understand the 12 August Iraqi initiative as well as Iraq's insistence on a fair linkage among the region's issues. Otherwise, any initiative based on the recent American- Soviet communique will be doomed to failure. Moreover, any new initiative should first emphasize the need to halt the aggression, and second, the withdrawal of the forces of the aggressive alliance from the Islamic land and sanctities. It then should call for the convening of an international conference to solve all the region's issues in accordance with international legitimacy and with a single standard.

President Bush and his allies must fully understand that the defeated cannot set conditions for ending the war.

The alliance of aggression was defeated the moment it decided to go to war, as President Saddam put it. So, it should halt the aggression without any preconditions, since it has no hope of victory, even one in a million, although it is carrying out small, provocative acts, such as attacking Jordanian tankers.

Paper Predicts Future U.S. Move Against Iran

JN0302124691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Feb 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "An Early U.S. Campaign Against Iran"]

[Text] What attracts attention is that the United States is beginning an early campaign against Iran, even before the American-Crusader alliance finishes its dirty mission against Iraq. This indicates that the arch Satan is hastening to settle it s deferred accounts with the Islamic Republic.

When some American circles make repeated warnings regarding Iran's nuclear ability, and when there is much talk in America about the Iranian authorities' attempt to repeat the Iraqi experiment of building nonconventional military power, then this means that the American campaign against Iran has begun early, and that it will, at some future time, take the same form as that against Iraq's defensive capabilities.

The significance of this campaign will, undoubtedly, be very swiftly understood by the Iranian leaders who are now observing the crusader concentrations assembling on the Gulf shores and in the Gulf waters to impose permanent hegemony over the region, in which Iran is one of the most important regional constituents.

If the American campaign is now throwing its full weight against Iraq and all that it represents as a symbol of an awakening Arab and Islamic force, then it is clear that the American eyes are focused, in advance, on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which the imperialists and the new Crusaders view as a deadly danger threatening all their plans in the region, particularly the plan that aims to maintain a permanent colonialist presence in the Gulf and to build alliances that will be devoted to serving American interests in the region.

Based on this, we are confident that Iran, which, at an early stage, was aware of the ultimate objectives of this unholy campaign that is being launched against Iraq, will not miss the opportunity, while the war is knocking the doors of the Islamic Republic, to realize the significance of this new American provocation and the objective of this renewed talk about Iran's nuclear ability, and to consequently take the necessary measures, at the appropriate time, to foil the onslaught that is currently being planned against all that Islamic Iran represents and all its revolutionary potentials that rob Israel and imperialism of their sleep.

Israeli Response to Iraq, 'Threats' Denounced

NC0202152691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Feb 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Israel Started the Aggression and Iraq Is Responding"]

[Text] Since the first Iraqi missile was fired at Tel Aviv, the Zionist enemy has been talking incessantly about an inevitable response to Iraq. As the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel continue, the Zionist enemy has begun to raise its voice and to blackmail openly the states of the aggression alliance, at times claiming it is responding to their calls and appeals for self-retraint, at other times threatening Iraq with an inevitable response, and at yet other times stressing that it will choose the appropriate time and place for this response.

It is clear that, through the military and financial aid it is receiving from the states of the aggression alliance, the Zionist enemy's maneuver has achieved some of its objectives. It now plans to continue this blackmail and this maneuver in other ways and forms. Although this maneuver has deceived the idiots of the aggression alliance, particularly in Germany and Japan, it has not deceived a single Arab. All Arabs, with Iraq at the forefront, know full well that Israel has participated in the aggression, just as it participated in the planning for it. They also know full well that Israel played a leading role in the decision to launch the aggressive war against Iraq.

On top of everything else, Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. The Iraqi missile attacks on Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities come as a clear and practical reply to the old and new Zionist aggression against Iraq. Iraq is the one that is responding to aggression initiated by Israel, not vice versa.

In recent days, the Tel Aviv rulers, beginning with David Levi and Shomron, continuing with the air force commander, and ending with Shamir, have been threatening and attempting to intimidate Jordan, insinuating that they will use Jordanian airspace to reply to Iraq. This is a provocative Israeli maneuver.

Jordan has through its leader, His Majesty King Husayn, stressed that it will never permit a violation of its skies or territory, and that it will use all its capabilities and potential to confront any such attempt. Moreover, the Jordanians are proudly and resolutely determined to confront any stupid and reckless action that Israel may carry out against Jordan's skies or territory. Israel, better than anyone else, knows full well that if the Jordanians—leadership and people—say something, they will do it.

German Arms 'Airlift' to Israel Criticized

NC0102223891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Feb 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Germany Is Arming Israel"]

[Text] It seems that the German Government has decided to involve the German people in the alliance of the aggressors against the Arab nation and steadfast Iraq. This constitutes a premeditated aggression against the Arab and Islamic peoples. Moreover, this would sever the ties of a long friendship throughout history with the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The German Government's involvement in this regrettable aggression began with the granting of generous financial aid to the United States to purchase war ammunition and bombs, which are now falling on Iraqi civilians, when it donated more than $5 billion to finance the barbaric onslaught against Iraq. "Official" Germany has not stopped at this point, but established an airlift between Bonn and Tel Aviv yesterday to transport all kinds of sophisticated weapons and ammunition to the Zionist aggressors. This constitutes backing for the extremist current in Israel, which has thus far been rejecting the resolutions of international legitimacy that were adopted 23 years ago, which obligate Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967.

It is worth mentioning that supplying Israel with German weapons constitutes a violation of the German constitution itself, which bans arms sales to hotbeds of conflict in the world—the same pretext used by Germany a few years ago when it refused to sell Leopard tanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Moreover, this German Government's measure conflicts with the sentiments expressed by the German people, who have loudly raised their voices against the alliance's criminal aggression against Iraq and adopted an antiwar stance that deserves our appreciation.

We denounce and express regret over the Bonn government's measure of supplying the Zionist occupiers with $666 million worth of war weapons which include attack submarines, missiles, tanks, armored vehicles, and trucks at a time when Israel is expressing its determination to participate directly in the aggression against Iraq, something that makes these weapons appear as though they constitute an instigation to Israel to translate its evil intentions into action.

It is regrettable and tragic at the same time to see Germany, whose unity we have welcomed, mortgaging itself in such a manner to Zionism, to disgracefully submit to the United States' pressure, to shake hands that are stained with the blood of Arabs and Muslims in the holy land and the Gulf, and to take a hostile position toward the steadfast Iraqi people, who have never been hostile to it.

UN General Assembly Session on War Urged

NC0202150791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Support for the War: Is U.S. Ready for Testing it?"]

[Text] Washington and its close allies are no longer in an upbeat mood about the Gulf war. Inspite of over two weeks of the heaviest ever bombardment of Iraqi and Kuwaiti civil and military centres and targets, the Iraqi backbone has not been broken as projected at the commencement of the Western offensive in the Gulf. Each passing day takes the West further and further away from easy and early victory that was heralded as imminent at the start of the war. At best there is now a military stalemate. The only thing that the Washington-led offensive has achieved is to wreak havoc, death and destruction and exacerbate the already volatile situation in the area. After turning down North African, Non-Aligned and other initiatives calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war, the only remaining option now is either to pursue this mad and crazy war till the bitter end or resort to another international forum to put in place a cooling-off period in the ongoing fighting in order to provide more room for reflection and positive thinking. It was said before and it has to be said again that the U.N. General Assembly should be convened immediately for this purpose. U.S. President George Bush is only kidding himself when he maintains that his war enjoys international support. In fact, the only participating countries in the war are the Western countries. Everything else is only cosmetics that add or subtract nothing. If Washington, London and Paris truly believe that their war is internationally popular, they are invited to put that claim to the test by taking the Gulf crisis to the U.N. General Assembly where it would have a truly international chance to be aired and addressed.

The Americans and the Soviets can, in the same breath, present their joint communique to the international body to see what kind of response to it they will be getting from the world community. This can be done assuming that the Americans themselves have not changed their own mind about the joint statement that was signed by the U.S. Secretary of State and his Soviet counterpart.

But if the U.S. is not ready for peace yet, there will come a time in this war when they will have to weigh their losses and decide whether their whole adventure has really been worth it.

King Meets Airline Staff, Voices Confidence

NC0302220491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Report on a speech by King Husayn during a meeting with Royal Jordanian Airlines staff at the 'Aliyah Hotel at Queen Alia International Airport near Amman on 3 February]

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has voiced confidence in the inevitable triumph of our nation and in a new Arab dawn when the Arab nation will be united in the great Arab homeland. His majesty said: We are now passing through a difficult time and a difficult test but with God's help and our efforts, sincerity, awareness, and generosity, we will continue our good march, which is the march of the nation to which we belong, on the path of those who preceded us, and we will not bow our heads except for Almighty God.

His majesty said: When issues are clarified in the foreseeable future, each one of us will realize the dimensions of the problem and the extent of the challenges, and together we will bear the brunt of the national, and pan-Arab responsibility, and work and persevere, so the results will be successful, as we want them to be. The test is very difficult and we must pass this test through our awareness, faith, and responsibility.

His majesty said: These days, we remember difficult times in this Jordanian family. It is our fate to bear the responsibilities of future generations and to face difficult circumstances. We believe in the inevitability of the triumph of the truth. We have been able to overcome all the difficulties that faced us because we are one family and we have hope in future generations, which, God willing, will judge us positively and not negatively.His majesty expressed his trust in the Royal Jordanian airline and its pioneering role in serving this country, noting that commercial airlines throughout the world are passing through difficult times as a result of the circumstances in the region. He noted that we in Jordan are passing through the most difficult phase in our long Jordanian march.

His majesty said that, God be praised, we have enough faith and ability to tackle these circumstances resourcefully and with confidence, and that we will find a new beginning from which to proceed with all our resources toward a better and brighter future when the darkness has passed. Then every one of us will know that he carried out his duty and did his best. [passage omitted]

Public Disagrees on Private Auto Restrictions

NC0202144391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 91 p 3

[By Serene Halasah and Nur Sati, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Excerpts] Amman—A government decision to restrict private cars to run on alternative days has met strong objection on the part of the public. The majority of Jordanians voiced total disagreement with the government's idea reasoning that the decision will result in cutting down petrol consumption. Most of the people interviewed by the Jordan Times Friday said they would have welcomed increased petrol prices rather than be subjected to inconveniences. [passage omitted]

Despite the large outcry from the public, the majority of the people interviewed by the Jordan Times, expressed a need to ration gasoline consumption, but gave other alternatives. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Calls for Syria To End Gulf War

NC0202152791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Speech by Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt at a reception marking the 7th anniversary of the Voice of the Mountain radio at the Summerland Hotel in Beirut on February 1—recorded]

[Excerpts] I thank all those who have attended this small meeting. We thank our friends and we thank past foes, specifically Dr. George Sa'adah and Dr. Samir Ja'ja'. [applause] We hope that together with the Phalangist Party, with the Lebanese Forces, and with every sincere Lebanese national party we can build a new Lebanon, despite the reservations we have regarding the al-Ta'if agreement and the al-Ta'if tools. We also thank those who did not attend and we excuse them because they received instructions not to attend. [applause] We will not comment on this.

We will just say that certain circumstances dictated the establishment of private information media in Lebanon, whether rightist or leftist in the eastern or western areas. We hope this information media will unite through a serious information conference to promote the peace, reconciliation, and reconstruction processes without demagogy or sectarian prejudice. [passage omitted]

With regard to the Voice of the Mountain radio, the Voice of the Mountain, like other information media, will continue to follow Lebanese, Arab, and international events. We in Lebanon are with al-Ta'if and we in the Arab world are against the barbaric U.S. invasion, irrespective of attempts by others to justify this invasion. [applause] Let such people think of the future after the Iraqi Army is destroyed and finished.

Because we have been classified by some insignificant people as 'Arafatists, Iraqis, and Israelis, we want to say that we defend the Arab people of Iraq. These people should think carefully before it is too late and before we become part of the Kingdom of David or greater Israel. Let these people think, because America does not want the Arabs and is not seeking the interests of the Arabs. America wants to fulfill its own interests. Old Yalta ended and a new Yalta has emerged. They want to dominate the oil and the Arab people.

Therefore, before it is too late, let us all unite, from Baghdad to Damascus to Beirut to Cairo. Let the national and pan-Arab rifle unite. I think we can defeat all the armies of imperialism. We cannot remain as observers. While we understand the Syrian leadership's observation that Syria does not want to be dragged into a war, we urge al-Asad's Syria, pan-Arab Syria, and patriotic Syria to take an initiative to save the Arab world from catastrophe before it is too late.

This is what I wanted to say. I thank all those who attended today. I hope that my words will not be misunderstood. [passage omitted]

Officials Discuss 'New Front,' Iraq Support

Fatah Official Comments

NC0102201591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Fatah Central Committee Member Sakhr Habash has said that the Fatah Movement, the Palestinian resistance, and the Lebanese National Movement have opened a front against the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon to support the Arab front of righteousness being defended by Iraq.

In a statement published in AL-JUMHURIYAH today, he added that the new front against the Zionist enemy will be an effective weapon and will back Iraq in the all-out battle against the enemies of the Arab nation.

He called on the Palestinian revolution's fighting forces to open several more fronts against the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon and on the Syrian-Palestinian borders.

Fadlallah Praises Iraqi Solidarity

NC0202115991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called on the resistance to study a sound plan for resistance on a level that would have profound effects on Israel and at the same time safeguard the people's steadfastness. He noted that there is a sort of limitation on political, information, and popular freedoms in the way the government is acting.

'Allamah Fadlallah underlined solidarity with the Iraqi people. He said: Just as we were with the Iraqi people against the regime which was suppressing their freedom, we are now with the Iraqi people against the forces of arrogance which are killing the Iraqi people's men, women, and children and destroying all their economic infrastructures and their military machine. Iraq's mistake in occupying Kuwait does not justify the destruction of Iraq.

Hawatimah To Maintain Front

NC0402073291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Minister Nabih Birri has said that the United States has not objected to the dispatch of the Army to the south, but it has counseled patience. [passage omitted]

For his part, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], emphasized the determination to maintain the front from southern Lebanon against the border strip and northern Israel. Hawatimah also called for disregarding the Security Council resolution imposing an economic embargo on Iraq.

Israel yesterday shelled areas north of the border strip and opened machine-gun fire at Aramun from its positions in the Qal'at al-Shaqif.

Two Wounded in Second Attack on Kuwaiti Bank

NC0202210391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] For the second time in 24 hours, the Bank of Kuwait and the Arab World-Khaldah Branch has been attacked with explosives. As a result of this attack, two persons, one from the Dhibyan family, were wounded.

Army To Deploy in South, Al-Biqa' by 7 Feb

Council of Ministers Decree

NC0202074891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] In its extraordinary session under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday, the Council of Ministers decided to deploy the Army in the south and western al-Biqa' by 7 February at the latest. The relevant Cabinet statement sets the task of the Army as maintaining security and order and reinstating the state's authority in the region.

Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur, who read the statement, stressed that the Army deployment in the region enjoys local, regional, and international support and that the task will be carried out despite any obstacles. I do not expect confrontations with the Palestinians, he said. Minister Mansur added that any attempt to obstruct the Army mission in the South amounts to a declaration of war. In answer to a question, Mansur said Israel will be confronted if it tries to confront the deployment.

Meanwhile, the prime minister said contacts with the Palestinians are continuing with a view to achieving withdrawal from Iqlim al-Tuffah and refraining from obstructing the Army deployment.

Palestinians, Ministers React

NC0302090291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The newspaper AL-DIYAR has cited ministerial sources as saying that Palestinian officials have told the Lebanese military that the Cabinet's decision to send the Army to the south is a modified form of the earlier decision concerning Iqlim al-Tuffah and therefore requires consultation with the [PLO] leadership in Tunis.

The Palestinian response also included remarks about the areas the Palestinians consider crucial to maintaining the safety of the camps, chief among them being the areas lying to the east of Sidon, the Maghdushah hills, and the outskirts of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The sources said that Palestinian officials met with a delegation from the Army command and with mediators to discuss the new situation that has emerged following the eruption of the Gulf war and the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian resistance. Palestinian officials believe that these new conditons require a Palestinian military presence and the protection of Palestinians living in the camps.

Meanwhile, one ministerial source termed the decision an uncertain move under the circumstances and predicted that the decision will not be implemented on 7 February. The source said that the government has placed itself in a difficult situation that may endanger its future. The source said that the coming week will witness major changes in the Beirut political scene as well as in the security situation in the south. The ministerial source predicted that a number of ministers will submit their resignations in the near future because of the failure to deploy the Army in the south.

The source disclosed that Minister Nabih Birri has hinted to some officials that he will resign if the Army is not deployed in the south on the designated date. The source explained Birri's position in light of the following factors:

One, the difficult situation faced by the Amal Movement, which may reflect on Minister Birri's position.

Two, Minister Birri's belief that the government is incapable of making any important decisions and is likely to hesitate at every turn.

Three, Birri's conviction that the Army's failure to deploy in the south will completely detach the Lebanese situation from domestic factors and link it instead with the unstable situation in the Gulf.

For his part, Education Minister Butrus Harb told the Voice of Lebanon that the government will not go back on its decision to deploy the Army in the south. The country, he said, is facing a challenge to restore the state's sovereignty and extricate the south from the negative repercussions of the Gulf war.

Palestinian Factions Welcome Army

NC0302120891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Following the meeting held between a Lebanese military delegation under Brigadier General Nabih Farhat and a Palestinian delegation, Palestinian factions have welcomed the deployment of the Army in southern Lebanon. They expressed their readiness to provide every facility to ensure the success of this step.

In a statement, the factions said: The PLO is eager to organize Lebanese-Palestinian ties through opening a dialogue between the PLO and the legitimate Lebanese Government.

Birri Says 7 Feb Final Day

NC0302193891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri has declared that 7 February is the final day for the Army's deployment in the south. He revealed that the delay so far was due to Western advice.

In an interview with the Voice of the People radio, he said that he has sent messages to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and other officials to tell the PLO to stop shelling Israel in order not to give it a pretext to carry out an aggression.

Insistence on this plan comes at a time when Israeli shelling of southern areas is still continuing and negotiations are taking place with the Palestinians, who, according to some sources, are refusing to withdraw from some positions.

Downed Pilots Said Parachuting Into Syria

NC0302085391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] In the past two days, the authorities of the Syrian regime handed over to the U.S. Embassy in Damascus seven American pilots whose planes had been hit by the heroic Iraqi antiaircraft fire during their attacks on civilian areas in Iraq.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent cites news reports arriving in Nicosia from Damascus as saying that these murderous pilots had parachuted into Syrian territory.

Baghdad Radio Report Denied

NC0302095491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 3 Feb (SANA)—The SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY has denied a report broadcast by London Radio, citing Baghdad Radio, about the presence of U.S. pilots in Syria. The agency stressed that the report is completely fabricated and utterly without basis.

Reportage on Lebanese Foreign Minister's Visit

Buwayz Arrives, Meets Al-Shar'

NC0202142691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Faris Buwayz, Lebanese minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and his delegation arrived in Syria today. He was received upon arrival by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, and Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to SANA, Buwayz said: In this exceptional and historic phase in the existence of Arab countries, we had to come to consult with our brothers in Damascus because of Syria's leading role both in this region and the world and because of its resources and assets in the Arab homeland and on the international level. The minister added: We have come to discuss a number of issues that threaten the Arab region and to thank fraternal Syria for its support in helping the Lebanese Government spread its control over all Lebanese territory and to reaffirm Lebanon's internal unity, sovereignty, and independence, and especially Syria's efforts to facilitate the Lebanese Army's entry into the dear southern region, in addition to its support for the Lebanese Army's efforts to establish law in the Beirut area.

The minister said that the Arabian Gulf events threaten the Arab future and homeland. As you are aware, what is going on in southern Lebanon threatens to expand the area of war and to push a number of Arab states into the conflict, he noted.

For his part, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed Syria's satisfaction with the Lebanese foreign minister's first visit to Damascus, adding that, like previous visits by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, the foreign minister's visit reaffirms the deep fraternal ties between the two countries.

Al-Shar' said: We express our satisfaction with the formation of the Lebanese Government, which embodies the fraternal Lebanese people's national aspirations and demonstrates that the march of Lebanese national reconciliation is continuously being strengthened. We feel that Syria's immense sacrifices for the Syrian and Lebanese people have not been in vain, especially now that Beirut and the Lebanese Army have been unified and steps and measures have been taken by the Lebanese Government to spread its power over the Lebanese soil.

Al-Shar' said: We hope that the brother Lebanese foreign minister's visit to Syria will be an important opportunity for consultations and exchanging views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern, especially those related to the Gulf war and other developments in our region.

Answering a question on the situation in the south, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: We believe that the Lebanese Government's decision to dispatch Lebanese Army units to the south is an important and vital decision. We support this decision and believe it enjoys UN and international support, because it is a step in the right direction toward establishing the Lebanese legitimate authorities' power over the entire Lebanese south. This decision is also an indispensable step to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the entire Lebanese south.

Answering another question about Syria's endeavors to help the Lebanese Government overcome the boycott of the government by some militias, al-Shar' said: We do not believe that this boycott constitutes a large fracture in the process of Lebanese reconciliation and we hope that the boycotters will realize that their boycott is neither in their interest nor in that of Lebanon. In any case, Lebanese reconciliation is being strengthened continuously, as was can see and feel. Everybody is called on to cooperate and overcome the regrettable civil war period and begin a new era of dialogue and cooperation among the various Lebanese groups. When it was formed, the Lebanese Government included all the militia leaders without exception and was not based on other considerations. It was based on equitable, balanced, and principled foundations and we hope that further steps will be taken to promote the policies of the Lebanese Government. You must be certain that Syria is serious and sincere in extending every kind of help and assistance to the Lebanese Government, as it has been doing, and as it will continue to do in the future.

Meets With Khaddam

NC0302034291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at

1800 today. Discussions centered on the latest developments in Lebanon and the efforts under way to consolidate security and stability there. Khaddam stressed Syria's support for the Lebanese Government's efforts to implement the National Accord agreement.

Meanwhile, a round of official talks between the Syrian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Lebanese delegation, led by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, was held at the Syrian Foreign Ministry at noon today. [passage omitted]

Received by Al-Asad

NC0302133991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his delegation at 1230 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also attended the meeting.

Extols Al-Asad, Departs

NC0302193591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his delegation at 1230 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also attended the meeting.

They discussed the situation in the region and the progress so far made to implement the national accord charter in Lebanon.

Buwayz and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon following a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at the western entrance to Damascus by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister; and the assistant to the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Buwayz made a statement to SANA before his departure. He said: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad honored us with an audience. We discussed current Middle East issues, particularly the Gulf crisis. We also discussed the delicate situation in southern Lebanon and bilateral ties.

He added: President Hafiz al-Asad briefed us on the facts of the situation and the Syrian stance on all the issues discussed. What we can say is that His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, as we have previously said, is at the heart of Arab decisionmaking. He is the basic Arab authority who examines the issues and reacts to the Arab homeland's affairs with a depth, wisdom, and realism that has enabled the Arab homeland to perhaps avoid further losses and the negative repercussions of the war.

Reportage on Japanese LDP Delegation's Visit

Al-Shar' Asks for Aid

OW0402043591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0253 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 4 KYODO—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on Sunday [3 February] asked a mission of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to provide aid to Syria, Japanese sources said Monday.

Al-Shar' urged the LDP team to enable Syria to receive Japan's financial aid to the "frontline" countries whose economies have been hit hard since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August last year.

Japan has extended 2 billion dollars in aid to Jordan, Egypt, and Turkey under this program.

According to the Japanese sources, al-Shar' said Syria deserves the aid because it has obeyed the United Nations resolutions. He said Jordan was given aid although it has not "necessarily" kept up with the UN resolutions.

He also said that Iran would not become an ally of Iraq, stressing the close relationship between Iran and Syria.

Iraqi fighter planes that have flown into Iranian territory would not return to Iraq during the war, the Syrian foreign minister said.

The four-member LDP team has been touring the Middle East since January 26 to clear the way for the dispatch of military planes to transport refugees fleeing the Persian Gulf war.

The mission traveled to Cairo and Jordan before visiting Syria.

Further on Meeting

NC0402081491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday evening received a Japanese Liberal Democratic Party delegation led by Toshio Yamaguchi, chairman of the Japanese Diet's foreign relations committee. Shakir Su'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab and international relations committee, and Japanese Ambassador in Damascus Ryoji Onodera also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments in the Gulf war and ways of halting it on the basis of the UN resolutions. They also made full assessment of the damages caused by the Iraqi occuaption of Kuwait and its effect on the Arab region, particularly Syria.

Yamaguchi expressed his appreciation for the position Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has taken since the start of the Gulf crisis and its efforts to address and settle the issue. The two sides also discussed bilateral ties between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives Reply From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0202173991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] In reply to a message on the Gulf issue sent to Tripoli by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, a message has recently arrived in Kabul from that excellency.

In the message, appreciation was expressed for the efforts of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to help establish a ceasefire and find a political solution to the Gulf and Middle East issues. Information was also presented in the message, in connection with efforts by the state of Libya in this regard.

His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has mentioned with praise the efforts of Esteemed Najibullah to resolve the issues related to Afghanistan by peaceful means and has pledged any type of assistance in connection with negotiations among the Afghans.

Interparliamentary Group Discusses Gulf War

LD0302181291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpt] The Executive Board of the National Group of the Interparliamentary Union of the Republic of Afghanistan met today in the headquarters of that union under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohamud Habibi, chairman of the Sena [Senate] and head of the Interparliamentary Union of the Meli Shura [National Assembly] of the Republic of Afghanistan. The board discussed the message sent by Esteemed Dr. Najaf 'Ali Habibi, head of the Interparliamentary Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to the heads of the world parliament [as heard], which was recently received by the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The message reads in part: Since the occupation of Kuwait, extensive efforts have been carried out in various levels in the world and the region to prevent war, and the Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly stressed the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait by political and diplomatic means. At the same time, it has warned of the dangerous consequences of war and resort to military operations.

At this moment when the regional countries burn in fire and blood, no one will understand the dangerous consequences of this devastating war if it continues. It seems that the tragedy of the World War I and World War II is being repeated. In this special moment, it is the duty of all parliaments to ask the world community to take effective measures to ensure a ceasefire in the region in order to resolve the conflict by political means, not by force.

The National Interparliamentary Group of Afghanistan approves the message sent by the Interparliamentary Group of the Islamic Republic of Iran, taking into account its humanitarian and profoundly peaceful aspects. The people of the Republic of Afghanistan, whose sovereignty the Meli Shura represents, and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan both before the outbreak of war and during the war hold an anti-war stance. [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy Assertions Termed 'Provocative'

LD0302070191 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Kabul, Feb 2, BAKHTAR—A BAKHTAR political observer writes: Recently, Peter Tomsen, US representative to the Afghan opposition in Pakistan in an interview with the radio Voice of America in relation to the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) once again expressed provocative and irresponsible assertions. Tomsen expressed his views from such a position as if he has been authorized by the Afghan nation. He has dictated his personal hostile and prejudiced views on Afghan people and has instructed who will be included in the composition of future government in Afghanistan. And what should the Afghan people do? It must be asked from P. Tomsen under which circumstance and right he dares to shape their own destiny. Taking such an unrealistic stand which runs counter to the stand of a realistic and responsible diplomat, is nothing but encroachment into the internal affaris of Afghanistan and [word indistinct] of war in our country.

In this connection a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan aid that it was not for the first time that Tomsen as a [word indistinct] of the Afghan people intends to dictate Afghans for their future destiny. He who, as the opposition interim governemnt, has lost his credits among the Afghans, by making such assertions, wants to keep the broken morale of the opposition high and to camouflage the defeat of the opposition interim government as well as of his own. [sentence as received]

But, it must be pointed out here that the Afghans are intended to shape their destiny through understanding and intra-Afghan dialogue. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) as an objective reality has been acepted in national and international arenas. The initiatives as well as the national reconciliation policy (NRP) are being supported inside and outside the country.

Tomsen has exaggeratedly claimed that the US-USSR negotiations on the RA have failed. While Shevardnadze the then foreign minister of the Soviet Union and US Secretary of State James Baker in their talks in Houston, USA, said that they have agreed in principle to stop delivery of arms to warring sides n Afganistan. They considered their talks as successful and stressed that they have approached the solution of the Afghan problem.

Tomsen says that those who claim that aid of the US have been lessened to the Afghan opposition have adopted an anti-American stand, and what is said on the success of the Soviet-US negotiations on Afghanistan are targetted to deceive Afghans.

It has now been cleared that the baseless assertions of Tomsen contradict with the diplomacy of his respected government as wel as world inclination for the peaceful solution of the Afghan problem. The Afghans now are thinking on the solution of their problems by themselves and without foreign intervention.

Bangladesh

Ershad Accepts 'Reality,' Says Ready for Jail

BK0202112091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1112 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 2 (AFP)—Bangladesh's ousted president Hussain Mohammad Ershad said he is ready to go to jail if authorities ignore his plea to save him from an assassin's plot. "I am ready to go jail come what may be. I have to face the reality," Mr. Ershad was quoted as saying by a close associate Saturday.

Mr. Ershad held brief talks with his associate Friday in the presence of a police officer at the villa in Gulshan Diplomatic District where he has been interned since December 12. The ousted leader, who stepped down December 6 in the face of mass demonstrations against his eight-year-old regime, had warned in a letter to acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed that an unidentified political group has been plotting to kill him, and he appealed for protection.

"I understand that the killer group will kill me in Dhaka Central Jail if I am transferred there," he wrote. He alleged that the unidentified group was concerned he would take back power in the parliamentary polls scheduled for February 27.

Major Bangladeshi political groups and students have been demanding that Mr. Ershad be moved from the villa to the high-security jail, calling him a criminal who deserves no special treatment. Jail sources said they have readied a cell for the former president and also one for his wife, Raushan. His associate said authorities have not yet replied to Mr. Ershad's appeal.

Asked if the former leader still thought of returning to politics, he said, "Mr. Ershad still loves the people of the country and has accepted the fact that no one can remain in power forever as it is Allah who decides." He said Mr. Ershad's 11-year-old adopted daughter, who was studying in London, was now with her parents at the villa. He did not give details.

On the hearing of an arms case against Mr. Ershad next week by a Dhaka court, one of his lawyers, Kazi Shahadat Hossain, said eight weapons found without valid papers in his official residence were the responsibility of the president's aides and that Mr. Ershad could not be sent to prison for that.

Mr. Hossain said the weapons were gifts from foreign leaders and Mr. Ershad's aides should have procured necessary papers because it is not the duty of a "busy" head of state to look after such small matters. "My client is ready to fight all cases, his morale is high, and we will come out victorious in all cases that have been filed" against Mr. Ershad, he added.

After putting Mr. Ershad under house arrest for 120 days under the 1974 special powers act, authorities filed three cases of corruption, abuse of power and possesion of illegal weapons.

Meanwhile, activists from Mr. Ershad's Jatiya Party (JP) staged several demonstrations in the capital to demand their leader's release from the villa, which has been converted into a sub-jail. "We want the immediate release of Mr. Ershad who has been kept under detention illegally," one activist said in front of the downtown National Press Club.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, a former prime minister and acting president of the JP, said the party would make its presence more widely felt as the election approaches. "We will also demonstrate and take constitutional steps if Mr. Ershad is put on trial," he said.

Hasina Wants India Talks To Solve 'All' Issues

BK0302162391 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Awami League chief and the leader of the Eighty-Party Alliance, Sheikh Hasina, has said that transition to democracy and political stability are the prime need of the hour after 15 years of military and autocratic rule. Talking to foreign correspondents in Dhaka today, she said if no single political party or alliance secures a majority after the forthcoming parliamentary election, her party will consider formation of national government with the help of political parties agreeing to the parliamentary form of democracy in the country. She said her party wants to solve all outstanding issues between India and Bangladesh through negotiations and maintain best relations with India.

Students Demand Recall of Nation's Gulf Troops

BK0202160491 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The All Party Students Unity, APSU, today staged a demonstration in front of the Foreign Ministry in the capital to demand an immediate halt to the Gulf war. APSU has also called for withdrawal of both the U.S.-led multinational forces from the Gulf and Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The student alliance stressed a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problems, particularly to the Palestinian crisis.

APSU demanded that the government immediately bring Bangladeshi soldiers back home from Saudi Arabia.

India

PLO Wants Greater NAM, Indian Role in Gulf

BK0202162491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The PLO has called for a greater role by India and the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] to bring about a cease-fire in the Gulf and to find a lasting negotiated settlement of the West Asian problem. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the special envoy, Mr. (Jamal Shorani), of the Palestine president, Mr. 'Arafat, said a summit or a bureau meeting of NAM should be called urgently for the purpose. Deploring any foreign intervention in the Gulf, he said, at the same time, the PLO does not support Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

In reply to a question about his talks with the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, he said these have been positive and useful. Both the PLO and India share the views on the Gulf war.

Peace March Demands Immediate Gulf Cease-Fire

BK0402124491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] In New Delhi, about 10,000 people, including women and children, organized a peace march demanding that UN Security Council convene an immediate meeting to initiate measures for a cease-fire in the Gulf War.

Vice President Quayle's Nuclear Statement Deplored

BK0202090491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has deplored the U.S. vice president's statement that nuclear weapons can be used against Iraq if it employs chemical warheads in the Gulf war. Talking to newsmen at Jaipur this morning, Mr. Vajpayee described Mr. Dan Quayle's threat as unwarranted and irresponsible. Mr. Vajpayee, who was one of the country's foreign ministers, said New Delhi is doing its best to stop the war, but he thinks the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] initiative has its limitations in the present circumstances.

Criticizing the Congress-I stand on the Gulf war, he said parallel diplomacy of any kind should be avoided.

Iranian Crude Shipments Arrive at Various Ports

BK0302160491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Over one lakh tonnes of Iranian crude has reached various Indian ports in the last four or five days after temporary suspension of loading of crude in Gulf ports following the outbreak of war. The shipping sources say Cochin has already received 25,000 tons and another 15,000 tons are on the way. India has also finalized arrangements for importing crude from Malaysia and Australia.

Radio Reports Pakistani Nuclear 'Breakthrough'

BK0402094091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Pakistan has announced a major breakthrough in its nuclear program. According to Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, it has developed an indigenous technique to recover uranium from sandy rocks. The availability of uranium will help step up Pakistan's nuclear activities.

Alleged Funding of Burmese Rebels Denied

BK0102095891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0946 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Bangkok, Feb 1 (AFP)—The Indian Embassy here denied Friday claims that it had secretly helped finance a rebel Burmese government operating on the Thai-Burmese border.

A senior diplomat, who declined to be named, said the claims, made at a press conference on Thursday in the Burmese capital, were untrue.

"Our government's policy involving Burma is one of nonintervention. It is unfortunate that these remarks were made, dragging us into this affair. To suggest we have ever handed over money or agreed to finance the parallel government is simply not true," said the diplomat.

The allegations were made by an ex-member of the parallel National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) who surrendered to the ruling military junta earlier this month.

U Than Kywe, 50, who was "trade minister" in the illegal NCGUB, said details of financing by India had been given to him by the NCGUB "Foreign Minister" Peter Lim Pin.

He said Peter Lim Pin had told him he had made contact with the Indian embassy in Bangkok with the help of the Indian ambassador in Rangoon and received initially 200,000 baht (7,700 dollars).

He later allegedly received 100,000 baht with the promise that this amount would be forthcoming every month.

The NCGUB was set up last December when pro-democracy MPs joined forces with the Karen National Union group fighting the junta from their base in Manerplaw in southern Burma on the border with Thailand.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to PRC

For reportage on External Affairs Minister Vidhya Charan Shukla's visit to the PRC, including reports on talks between Shukla and PRC Premier Li Peng, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 4 February China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sikh Militants Kidnap 20 Villagers

BK0102153591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1500 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 1 (AFP)—Indian security forces launched a major search Friday after Sikh militants kidnapped 20 Punjab villagers, as violence related to the northern state's Sikh separatist campaign left another 18 people dead. Some two dozen Sikhs disguised as policemen raided Mehana and the adjoining village of Chur Chack in Punjab's Faridkot District late overnight and abducted 29 villagers, PTI said.

The abductors freed nine elderly hostages after giving them a "good beating," but were still holding the 20 others, the news agency said.

To give police the impression that they had killed the villagers, the militants left a trail of decoy blood at one of the districts which turned out to be a red powder mixed with diesel. Some 600 police were pressed into the hunt Friday for the abductors and their hostages, whose fate was not known, PTI said.

Sikh militants fighting for a separate homeland in Punjab have in recent weeks targeted members of the state's Hindu minority with kidnappings and mass killings. Sikh gunmen on Monday blocked a main road, halted vehicles at gunpoint, then shot and killed 11 Hindus. On January 8, the militants rounded up 14 Hindus from a village near Ludhiana town and shot them dead.

It was not immediately clear whether the hostages picked up by the gunmen in the latest kidnapping were all Hindus, but one of the nine freed was identified as a Hindu.

In violence overnight Thursday, police killed six suspected Sikh militants in three separate shootouts as one policeman and 11 civilians were slain, PTI said. The policeman, a Hindu constable on leave, was kidnapped in Ludhiana District and shot dead.

Sikh gunmen halted a car near the village of Mehndipur in Jalandhar District and gunned down four of its occupants. Two motorists were killed in a similar incident in the adjoining district of Hoshiarpur.

Five civilians including a woman and a boy were killed in other incidents.

The latest casualties brought to about 345 the death toll since January 1 in the Sikh separatist campaign in Punjab, a rich farming state on India's northern border with Pakistan.

Returned Safely

BK0302044291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] In Punjab, all 20 persons kidnapped by militants from two villages of Faridkot District on Thursday night have returned safely to their homes late last night. The militants had struck in Mehana and Chur Chack villages of Faridkot District and kidnapped 29 persons in two trucks. Later, nine of them were released by the militants near a canal bridge in Jagraon area of Ludhiana District the same night.

The state police chief, Mr. D.S. Mangat, who was personally supervising the search operations, was returning to Chandigarh yesterday when an attempt was made on his life by exploding a bomb through a remote-controlled device in Ludhiana. Mr. Mangat and all others who were injured and admitted to the hospital are officially stated to be out of danger.

Punjab Police Chief Escapes Assassination Attempt

BK0202125891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The Punjab director general of police, Mr. D.S. Mangat, escaped an assassination bid by the militants in Ludhiana District this afternoon. The militants blasted a powerful bomb through a remote-controlled device near the Sherpur railway bridge in the heart of Ludhiana City. Mr. Mangat, along with his security convoy, was returning to Chandigarh after holding a meeting with senior officers in connection with the kidnapping of 29 persons yesterday. The explosion injured Mr. Mangat, his personal security officer, a gunman, and the driver. The injured have been admitted to the nearby hospital. Mr. Mangat is reported to be out of danger.

Iran

President on Message to Saddam, Planes

LD0402100391 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb., 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today reiterated Iran's neutrality in the Persian Gulf war and said Tehran was seeking all diplomatic channels to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Speaking at a news conference attended by scores of Iranian and foreign journalists here, the president said the recent consultations here with high-level delegations from Iraq, Algeria and Yemen focussed on ways to halt the hostilities.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Algeria's foreign minister, and Yemeni state minister for foreign affairs visited Tehran last week and held talks with Iranian authorities on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Iraq's Sa'dun Hammadi carried a message from President Saddam Husayn for Hashemi-Rafsanjani and took one from the latter for Saddam upon his return to Iraq. His visit was also prompted by Iran's objection to Iraq over the landing of a number of its planes in Iran without Tehran's advance knowledge.

On the contents of his message for Saddam and if Iran had any specific peace plan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Tehran had not presented any specific plan but that if Saddam accepts "our idea (mentioned in the message) we might prepare a plan on that basis."

On the number of Iraqi planes which landed in Iran recently, the president said, "The number is the same we have declared. And the Iraqi pilots will be treated according to the decision of the Supreme National Security Council and international regulations."

Tehran says only 13 Iraqi military planes have made emergency landings in Iranian territory in two stages. And the Supreme National Security Council has announced that it will hold the planes and its pilots here until the end of the hostilities.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran was serious in its neutrality in the war. "We are not doing anything whatsoever to breach this neutrality," he said, adding that the landings of the Iraqi planes was "out of our control."

"The Iraqis had not informed us of this matter in advance. In the early days too, we resisted to some extent and our planes took off but it was not possible to force them to retreat.

"The arrival of the Iraqi planes was such that five minutes after (entering the Iranian airspace) they would run out of fuel and would crash. This was the case with three of them. One of these planes crashed in the runway and was set on fire. Another crashed on its way and its pilot was killed. And a third one landed on a road and was damaged.

"You know that during the Second World War, Switzerland held about 300 planes belonging to the warring sides and kept them until the end of the war and this was not regarded a breach of neutrality.

"And the Iraqis will certainly not ask us to allow them to use these planes during the current war and even if they ask us we will not accept."

On Hammadi's explanations on the plane landings, he said Iran had accepted that they were emergency landings and that they had no ill-intention to cause Iran trouble. He also rejected as "incorrect" a remark by President Saddam Husayn that Iraq might be able to use its planes in Iran in the war sometime in the future.

Asked if Iran observed any flexibility in Iraq's stance during Hammadi's talks here, the president said "We did not notice any sign of flexibility and what Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi said were [as received] the same already uttered by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz (the foreign minister) and Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim (member of the Revolutionary Command Council) before the outbreak of the war."

On Iran's role in the future of the region, the president said the regional security will not be maintained without meeting Iran's viewpoints as one of the powerful countries of the region.

He said Iran was confident that the presence of the U.S. forces in the region would not bring security but only prompt reactions by the people of the region who are unhappy over this event. "Their presence will be a dormant [as received] of trouble and the region will not accept it," he stressed.

In reply to another question on the impacts of the current war and if it would result in America's growing influence in the region, he said, "We are not neutral as regards the impacts of the war and will launch whatever efforts necessary (to stop it). Of course, I do not agree with the view that the U.S. influence in the region will grow after the war, because the post-war devastations and catastrophes will be so great that it will create serious problems for the U.S. The political repercussions of the war also will not be in the interest of the U.S. in the long run."

On U.S. President George Bush's plan for a universal balance, he said: "That the regional map should change it is a very difficult task and will create climatic insecurity. And we are seriously opposed to any change in the map of the region and a new balance."

He said the people's awareness had gone up in the current crisis and the conditions for their sovereignty had grown more favourable and "whatever Bush says will not be materialised."

On supply of food and medicine to Iraq, the president said Iran's aids to the oppressed Iraqi people were extended in accordance with the U.S. [as received] resolutions.

Asked about the Iranian people's readiness to provide food and medicine to the people of Iraq despite Saddam Husayn's hostilities with them, the president replied: "We agree with sending food and medicine to the Iraqi people and will help them within the limit of the international regulations. This, however, is confined to non-military aids."

He said some Iranians still did not feel good about Saddam for all the casualties and losses he inflicted on Iran. "But even during the war we had positive feelings towards the Iraqi people and we believe that the two nations of Iran and Iraq are too close ideologically and emotionally to be affected by these issues."

Regarding a future Iraqi regime after Saddam, Rafsanjani said "We cannot express a clear view in this regard.

This is up to the Iraqi people. But observers are concerned whether it would be the turn of Iraqi combatants and other political currents inside Iraq, or Iraq's territorial integrity would be at stake. The important thing is to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity."

Here Rafsanjani reiterated Iran's stance that Iraq should quit Kuwait, the foreign forces should return to their own countries, the regional borders remain intact, and the peoples and governments of the region provide for their own security.

Concerning the Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iran-Iraq conflict, the president said several articles of the resolution have practically been implemented. With the establishment of ceasefire, he added, Iraqi troops withdrew from Iranian territory.

Border demarcation will take place, agreement has been reached on dredging of the Arvand River (Shatt-al-'Arab), and a great number of prisoners of war have been released, he said. The president added that there were still some Iranian POWs in iraq and "we are in possession of documents that they are alive." Today, he said, a group of 76 more Iranian POWs will be freed in exchange for another group of Iraqi POWs.

He said according to the Resolution 598, a United Nations committee should decide the initiator of the eight year old war and the extent of damage inflicted on the wronged party. But he said the committee has not been set up yet due to the current situation in the region.

On Possible Contacts With U.S.

LD0402121691 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani told a press conference here Monday that if Iran had something to say to the U.S. about establishment of peace in the Persian Gulf it would do so through the Swiss Embassy.

The president made the remarks in response to a question as to the likelihood of talks between the Islamic Republic and the U.S. for establishment of peace in the Persian Gulf.

"Of course, if the issue of war reaches a stage of peace and in case it is necessary for us to talk to the Americans I think it will be logical. But no decision has been made in this regard. This rests with the leader and the Supreme National Security Council," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

On the likelihood of a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Saddam Husayn and on Washington's opposition to a diplomatic solution to the war, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied:

"I cannot put forth anything on behalf of the U.S. as I am not very much familiar with their real policies. If our 'idea' is accepted by Iraq there will be hope to end the war, and international pressure on the U.S. will increase.

"To this end, if there is hope for the salvation of the Iraqi nation, why shouldn't I meet Saddam?...Our goal is much greater than a meeting with Saddam," the president pointed out.

Reaction if Turkey Enters War

LD0402090191 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today made it clear that Iran will keep its neutrality in the Persian Gulf war "even if Turkey enters the war."

He made the remark at a news conference here today when asked about Iran's reaction in case Turkey enters the war. He added, however, that "Turkey is practically at war (because) its bases are used against Iraq."

President Says 'Massacre' of Iraqis 'Arrogant Plot'

LD0202115991 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today described the ruthless massacre of the Iraqi people by the U.S.-led forces as an "arrogant plot" and regretted that certain Islamic states were also involved in these killings.

"Unfortunately we see that the hands of the Muslims are also at work and the sedition has started from inside the Islamic states, and this shows a lack of realism (on their behalf)," the president said in a meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghozali.

The president also vowed that the Islamic Republic will "employ all its capabilities to put an end to the sufferings of our Muslim and neighboring Iraqi people."

On the Persian Gulf war, Ghozali said, "Today we see the Islamic world faced with the most grave threats, and believe that with your help and other Islamic countries this destructive war should be halted in order to prevent further destruction of the Iraqi Muslim people and their resources," Ghozali remarked.

The Algerian foreign minister also conveyed "the warmest and brotherly greetings" of the President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian people to their Iranian counterparts and congratulated Iran on the 12th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. He also called for further consolidation of mutual ties.

Thanking Ghozali for the message, Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the recent developments in the Persian Gulf and the massacre of "the innocent Muslims" of Iraq as "the most tragic catastrophe for humanity today."

"We see how the Muslims are being massacred with an arrogant plot and by international justification, and how

Islamic resources are being destroyed," he said, regretting that this opportunity had been provided to the enemies of Islam as a result of "a wrong action and incorrent calculation."

He said "As a humanitarian and Islamic obligation we are duty bound to lessen the sufferings of the Muslims and employ all our facilities to establish a ceasefire..."

Iraq's Hammadi Delivers Saddam Message, Departs

LD0202113291 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—Iraqi Vice-Premier Sa'dun Hammadi left here this morning shortly after he delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hammadi was flown to the western city of Bakhtaran from where he will cross the border to Iraq. The Iraqi official was seen off at the airport here by foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking to IRNA before departure, Hammadi termed his meetings with President Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati as "good and fruitful."

In these meetings the latest developments in the region, including the Persian Gulf war, were discussed and the Iraqi official was briefed on Iran's neutral stance in the crisis.

Also interviewed by IRNA, Velayati reiterated Iran's neutrality in the war but said this did not mean its indifference towards the fate of the Muslim people of Iraq.

"We are deeply concerned over the constant bombings of the innocent people of Iraq by the allied aircraft, particulalry the American planes. For this reason we have decided to extend some humanitarian aids to the Iraqi people by sending them foodstuffs and medicines through the International Committee of the Red Cross."

Turning to the recent unexpected landings of Iraqi military aircraft in Iran, Velayati said he had complained to the Iraqi Government over the incidents, in his meeting with Hammadi.

He said he had made it clear to the Iraqi official that the planes and crews will remain in Iran until the end of the war in line with Tehran's declared neutrality.

Elsewhere in the interview, Velayati referred to an extraordinary meeting of the Non-aligned foreign ministers in Belgrade next week in which he will also attend.

He said Tehran has been turned to a center of international activities to end the war and that the current visits of a number of foreign dignitaries to Iran was for coordination and adopting joint stances.

The Algerian foreign minister, the Yemeni state minister for foreign affairs, and the French Foreign Ministry secretary general are currently here.

Velayati reiterated that a peaceful solution to the crisis required an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and a pull-out of the alien forces from the region.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani handed the visiting Iraqi official a message for President Saddam Husayn regarding ways for possible solutions to the Persian Gulf war.

The president deplored the continuation of war and attacks on residential areas in Iraq.

He said: "It is saddening to witness the ruining of human and material resources of Muslim states in destructive wars," and expressed hope that the war would soon be halted.

"Iran will not hesitate to do whatsoever in its capacity to bring the current crisis to its end," he added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also emphasized on Iran's neutral position in the war and criticized the landing of Iraqi warplanes without prior permission.

"Iran will not allow the use of its airspace and territory by either of the parties to the war," the president made it clear.

He said to the Iraqi official: "The only solution to the war is the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region."

Sa'dun Hammadi briefed Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest situation of the war, and the difficult phase through which the Iraqi people were passing because of the bombardment of residential areas.

On the entry of Iraqi aircraft into Iranian airspace and their subsequent landing, Hammadi said: "Iraq does not intend to create problems for Iran, and the Iraqi aircraft had landed in emergency conditions without prior plans."

The Iraqi official also appreciated Iran's medical and food aids to Iraq.

Meanwhile, according to sources close to the Algerian delegation currently visiting Iran, Hammadi held a meeting last night with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Ghozali. The sources did not elaborate.

Hammadi and Ghozali were hosted to dinner by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Friday night.

Four-Way Talks Seek Gulf War Solution

LD0102195391 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Today Tehran became the capital of international diplomacy for ending the Gulf war. Contacts are taking place under extreme secrecy and on an individual basis. This, however, did not stop observers from saying that a new peace initiative might crown these contacts. We turn to our reporter, (Jamila):

[Begin (Jamila) recording] Between yesterday and today, Iran became the center of diplomacy in an attempt to put out the fire of war in the Middle East, as Tehran Radio said. The reason is the fact that four delegations, from Algeria, Iraq, Yemen, and France, are visiting Tehran. [passage omitted]

More than one observer has said that even if these contacts are apparently being carried out on an individual basis, it is still possible that the delegations from Algeria, Iraq, Yemen, and Iran might meet at the same table to discuss the current situation in the Middle East.

Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who arrived in Tehran today, stated that his visit is aimed at complementing the joint Algerian-Iranian efforts to end the war aimed at destroying Iraq. After the first round of talks, the two countries called for an immediate end to the war in order to open the door for diplomacy to deal peacefully with the crisis. [passage omitted]

The preliminary news says that there is no decision on a quadripartite summit among Iran, Iraq, Algeria, and Yemen. There is, however, a possibility of secret consultations among the delegations of these countries. The observers consider that Algeria, Iran, and Yemen are more qualified than others to mediate because they are appreciated and respected by Iraq. [end recording]

Velayati, Algerian Counterpart Discuss War

LD0102174991 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Visiting Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghozali and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Friday underlined the need to put an immediate end to the Persian Gulf war and to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Ghozali, saying Iran was located at the heart of the region, lauded the Islamic Republic for expressing solidarity with the Iraqi people which he said was due to its Islamic responsibility.

Velayati briefed Ghozali on Iran's principled stance on the Persian Gulf crisis and the efforts it has so far made to halt the conflict and solve the crisis peacefully.

The Algerian foreign minister arrived here early Friday.

President, Yemeni Envoy Condemn 'Arrogant Forces'

LD0202172191 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2 IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today held the presence of arrogant forces in the region and the expansionist tendencies of some regional states as "the main factors for regional insecurity."

He told visiting Yemeni Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali that "wherever the arrogant forces are present, that place is insecure because of the hatred they have aroused against themselves."

Al-Dali, who arrived here Thursday night, submitted Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Rafsanjani hailed Yemen's peace efforts both before and after the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf, and lauding Sanaa's "good intentions" said "All Islamic countries should try to make ceasefire possible" in the war.

"Iraqi, Kuwaiti and other regional potentials are being drained in a war, whose expsnes the Muslim people are paying, but whose benefits the enemies of Islam and global arrogance are reaping," the president regreted.

Underlining Iran's strategic situation in the Persian Gulf and the Hormuz Strait, and that of Yemen in the Arabian and Red Seas, he said: "No regional security is possible without coordination with these two countries."

Al-Dali briefed Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani on Sannaa's efforts to stop the war in the Persian Gulf, and said: "The West and the U.S. in particular intend to bring colonialism back to the region."

"We are convinced in Iran's decisive role in settling the crisis in view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's privileged status in the world and its profound influence on most Arab states," Al-Dali said.

He expressed Yemen's support for Iranian efforts, and stressed that Tehran, Sanaa and Persian Gulf states should maintain regional security.

Kuwaiti Official Arrives, Meets Besharati

LD0302182591 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kuwaiti Government in exile Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived here today with a message from Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah for President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Kuwaiti official who was received at the airport by First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, told reporters that among other topics the message underlines the "good and firm" relations between Iran and Kuwait.

He said Kuwait wants implementation of all eighteen resolutions—660 to 678—passed by the U.N. Security Council on the Persian Gulf crisis, and called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"No one believed that a country whether big or small, does what Iraq did with Kuwait," lamented al-Sabah whose government bankrolled Iraq's eight year war against the Islamic Republic.

He also termed as "glorious and historic" the Islamic Republic of Iran's position towards the Persian Gulf crisis.

Besharati said the Kuwaiti official was here to learn about Iran's views on the crisis, and expressed hope that current efforts would succeed in putting an end to the destructive Persian Gulf war.

Besharati once again called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait in order to deprive the U.S. of any pretext for continuation of its presence in the region.

Velayati Receives Message From Germany's Genscher

LD0302171691 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Germany's ambassador in Tehran met with the Euro-American deputy of the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Va'ezi, this morning and submitted a written message from Mr. Genscher, the foreign minister of Germany, to Mr. Velayati. In the course of this meeting, Mr. Va'ezi, while reiterating Iran's neutrality in the Persian Gulf war, expressed regret for the damage and losses inflicted on the Iraqi people as a result of this war and stressed the need for helping the innocent people of Iraq. He also reiterated the need for maintaining the region's security and stability by the countries of the region.

The German ambassador, referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's importance at this sensitive juncture, said: It will not be possible to maintain the region's security without Iran's active presence and the participation of other countries of the region. He also announced his country's desire to continue contacts and exchange views with the Islamic Republic of Iran on various issues.

Va'ezi, France's Scheer Discuss Iraqi Planes

LD0102134791 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Va'ezi today reiterated Iran's decision to ground any aircraft or ship belonging to "either of the warring sides" in the Persian Gulf that strays into Iranian airspace or waters, until the end of the conflict.

Va'ezi made the remarks in his first round of talks with visiting Secretary-General at France's Foreign Ministry Francois Scheer, when the recent emergency landing of several Iraqi military planes in Iran chanced to come up for discussion.

France, which religiously backed Baghdad with sophisticated armaments and financial credits during the eight year war against the Islamic Republic, is now a party to the U.S.-led war in the Persian Gulf against Iraq.

Va'ezi told the French official: "We are against Iraq's partition, consider the spill-over of the war as dangerous and condemn the (Western) bombing of residential areas in Iraq and destruction of its economic installations." He also made it clear that the holy sites in Iraq must on no account be subjected to the air raids.

Va'ezi, who handles Euro-American affairs, said the overstepping of limits set by the U.N. Security Council is certainly a cause of great concern for the Islamic Republic. He also said Iran still insisted on Iraq's pullout from Kuwait and on withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf. "On this basis we are continuing our peace efforts and there is no logical reason for such efforts to stop...we are seriously seeking ways to terminate the conflict," he added.

From its outset, Iran has strongly opposed both the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the U.S.-led military expedition to the Persian Gulf, which on the pretext of liberating Kuwait, is systematically destroying Iraq and its Muslim people.

Scheer said he has been commissioned by French President Francois Mitterrand to travel to Tehran to consult with Iranian authorities on the Persian Gulf war and inform them of Paris's view points in this regard. "We are ready to consult with Iran on ways of finding a solution to the crisis and on factors that can bring an end to the conflict," he said. Scheer, who arrived here last night, also hailed the Islamlic Republic's neutral stance in the war.

Meetings Viewed 'Positive'

LD0202114491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The third round of talks were held this morning between the secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry and the special representative of the French president and Mr. Va'ezi, the under secretary for Europe and the U.S. at our country's Foreign Ministry.

During this round of talks, which revolved around mutual ties and the war in the Persian Gulf, referring to the positive effects of the recent developments on the relations between the two countries, Mr. Scheer said: In France's view, the conditions are very favorable for the expansion of ties and mutual diplomatic and economic relations are improving. He added: We now see that scientific, research, and cultural ties are ready to be improved. We hope that, through joint effort, mutual ties will be strengthened and improved further.

Referring to his trip to the Arab Maghreb countries, Libya, and Jordan, he pointed out France's views on the present war in the Persian Gulf and the adverse effects of its spread.

Welcoming the expansion of relations with France on the basis of mutual respect, Mr. Va'ezi expressed optimism about the future of ties. He said: With the solving of the financial dispute, a new basis for mutual relations will come about. Although little progress has been made in solving the financial dispute, you must make serious efforts to finalize it. He stressed: By expediting the matters at hand, the two sides could pave the way for the improvement of diplomatic, economic, scientific, and cultural ties.

He also outlined Iran's views about the present war and the necessity for all-round effort to halt it immediately.

At the talks, with regard to the activities of the two countries concerning mutual ties, the two sides agreed to increase the number of staff at their embassies in Tehran and Paris.

Majles Official Warns Israel Against Retaliation

LD0102165291 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Zanjan, Feb. 1, IRNA—A senior Iranian parliamentarian said here Friday the Islamic Republic would make fresh efforts to restore peace in the Persian Gulf as of tomorrow.

"Fresh efforts will be intensified inside and outside the country to compel both the U.S. and Iraq to make peace in the Persian Gulf," Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat, vice speaker of the parliament said. He did not elaborate.

Addressing a Friday prayer gathering in this northwestern city as a pre-sermon speaker, Bayat said "The Islamic Republic is against any change in the map and territorial integrity of countries of the region including Iraq."

The Majles vice speaker also called on Iraq and the U.S.-led forces to respectively withdraw from Kuwait and the Persian Gulf region.

"If Israel is stupid enough to respond (to Iraqi missile attacks) the leader and officials of the Islamic Republic will undoubtedly take a position quite different from their present one," he made it clear.

"Iran has clear evidence that the Western air attacks on Iraq violate the U.N. Security Council resolutions (on Iraq)," the Hojjat ol-eslam said.

The Friday prayer leader of Zanjan Ayatollah Musawi Zanjani called U.S. President George Bush a "criminal" and expressed sympathy with the innocent people of Iraq.

February 1, the start of the 10-day Dawn marking the 12th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, was declared as "day of solidarity with the Iraqi people."

IRGC's Reza'i Rules Out Gulf War Involvement

LD0202114891 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Hamedan, Feb. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will not get involved in the Persian Gulf war at all in favor of any of the belligerent parties, said Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i here Friday.

Stressing that both sides to the Persian Gulf war were wrong, he said Iran, based on its Islamic duty, cannot remain indifferent towards the genocide of the Iraqi Muslim nation .

Reza'i who is also a member of the Supreme National Security Council made the remark in a gathering of the armed forces personnel here.

Supreme National Security Council Discusses Gulf

LD0202164191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] in its session held this evening [2 February] under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by all the members, advisors, and high-ranking military commanders, examined in detail the latest military situation of the parties involved in the war in light of the talks held between the Iraqi, Algerian, and Yemeni delegations and the political efforts made by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward a speedy end to the war and the prevention of further material and human losses, as well as the loss of the region's natural resources. The SNSC reiterated that Iran will employ its entire political capabilities toward finding a peaceful and speedy solution to this destructive war and toward establishing stable security in the region, without any foreign intervention.

Airspace Violations by Allied Planes Denied

LD0302220591 Tehran IRNA in English 1903 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3 IRNA—An informed source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said here this evening that there were no reports of any violation of Iranian airspace by the U.S.-led forces.

The 36th Iraqi military communique broadcast by Sawt al-Jamahir [Voice of the Masses] at 1700 hours GMT had claimed violation of Iranian airspace by the Western forces for attacking targets inside Iraq.

The source restated to IRNA that with respect to Iran's position for total neutrality in the war at the Persian Gulf, and its decisive stand against any attempt to breach the ban on use of its territorial waters, soil or airspace by either of the warring sides, it was improbable that any party to the conflict will be tempted to violate the sanctity of Iranian borders.

Iraq Said To Offer War Damages to Republic

PM0102165591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Agreement To Pay War Damages to Iran"]

[Excerpts] London, Tehran, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, News Agencies—Iranian sources have emphasized that the objective of the visit to Tehran yesterday by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi was to discuss the subject of the Iraqi planes landing at Iranian airfields and developments in the Gulf war.

IRNA has said that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reemphasized during his meeting with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi Iran's declared neutrality and respect for international rules.

It added that Velayati told Hammadi that the planes and their crews will remain in Iran until the war ends. [passage omitted]

Iranian sources said that the message Sa'dun Hammadi carried from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani included agreement by Iraq to pay war damages to Iran.

Unconfirmed reports have said that Sa'dun Hammadi asked the Iranian authorities to allow the Iraqi fighter planes that sought shelter there to return to Iraq "later."

But Iran emphasized its neutrality in the war and its position that these planes would remain impounded until the war ends. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0102164691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Friday prayers second sermon delivered by Ayatollah Shaykh Mohammad Yazdi, deputy Majles speaker and head of the Judiciary, at Tehran University on 1 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, exalted leader of the revolution, made several points [crowd chants]. I will refer to one or two of them. In my view he made an interesting remark. He said that on 'Ali's birthday, God's peace be on him, when the Shiites go on traditional visits, especially when we go to pay our respects to the valued offspring of the prophet, we say a prayer to thank God for having blessed us with being bound to the guardianship of the lord of the faithful. Well, these are words and a prayer that we merely utter orally. [passage omitted]

What are the characteristics of such a guardianship? Does it mean friendship? Does it mean that we are friends of 'Ali? We are thanking God for being 'Ali's friend and as such we will not be burned by the infernal fire according to some sayings. That is all very well but do we mean this kind of guardianship? Does it mean that we love 'Ali even if the rulership is in the hands of 'Ali's enemies who work against his objectives? Is it enough to say that we simply love 'Ali? [passage omitted]

His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, accomplished a great feat with his assertion that conviction is not enough. These convictions must be translated into action and appear in social life and turn society into an 'Ali-like society. The rulership must be 'Ali-like. [passage omitted]

The imam said that it was the enemies of Islam's method of thinking to say that there is no politics, no rulership, no social system in Islam. This is the way of thinking that the enemies of Islam have injected into us. In the same way as Islam calls for prayers and fasting, it also has retribution laws. In the same way as it has hajj it also has jihad and justice. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, I will rephrase the remark by the leader of the revolution the way I understand it. His remark means that today we can be thankful for the blessings we have. We must thank God who has bound us to the guardianship of 'Ali. This means we are under 'Ali's command under the command of the lord of the time, and the deputy to the lord of the time and his brave offspring the leader of revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may god lengthen his honorable shadow. [passage omitted]

When today we have a government, a system, a leader, a guardian of the cause; when that guardian of the cause draws up the principal guidelines for the policy of this country; when our president who has efficiency, wisdom, power, courage, spirituality, experience, and the capability to implement this policy through the cooperation of the officials of the system; when our system today under the most difficult and critical conditions prevailing in the region is the safe place for diplomatic activities; how should we now thank God for having given us such a blessing? If some individuals here and there use their pens and tongues to say something that may be against a corner of the regime, or they may recite poetry and draw pictures and use other means to in some way insult the regime, then in my view we must respond to these individuals to fulfill our duty and offer our thanks. We must not allow anybody to confuse the people by their statements against these leaders and officials who are in the heart of every one of us.

1-11 February, which has been named the Ten Days of Dawn, was the dawn of light in a world of darkness, in a world that was plunged into darkness and satan and satanic people ruled the world. An explosion took place in this land that removed the rule of satan from this country for good and the rule of light, the rule of God was established. God is the light of the earth and the stars. That explosion is commemorated every year during this period and our people take note of this blessing and thank God, and with their thanksgiving they carry out their duties. Things have been said about this matter that I will not repeat. We all have very sweet memories of those events and there is no need to say any more.

In the region there is a destructive war in progress. The wealth of that nation, Muslim people, men, women, children, old and young people, and resources are set alight day and night. What is this war for? Where did it start? Why did it start? Why does it continue? How long will it go on? This war has nothing to do with Islam and blasphemy. There are very clear factors in a war to signify Islam or blasphemy. If the person in charge were the guardian of the Muslims, if the guardian of the Muslims, he who has been assigned by God to lead, gave the order the war would become an Islamic one. However if the guardian of the Muslims is not involved, it will have no connection with Islam and blasphemy. This war is about power, about aggression. It started with aggression and continues with aggression.

The Security Council has approved this—I will not use the expression, the allies—the multinational forces to use force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. But has the Security Council authorized setting alight resouces that do not affect the war, setting alight people's homes, the bombings? Has it authorized all that? Or is it stepping beyond the authorization?

The Islamic Republic of Iran says that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. This is aggression against Kuwait—Kuwait should be preserved, Iraq must preserved, Iraqi and Kuwaiti lands and borders must be preserved. But should Iraq be destroyed to fight this act of aggression? Is that right?

Do you know that it has gone so far that the secretary general declared that the Security Council had not authorized the destruction of Iraq. When Mr. Bush heard this he said: We do not want to destroy Iraq. Can mere words be accepted? What will you do? All those Muslim people, all the resources, all the damage are part and parcel of Islam and Muslims.

The leader of the revolution has ordered the officials responsible for organizing the Ten Days of Dawn ceremonies to name a day "the day of solidarity with the people of Iraq." They have named today, which is the most appropriate day, "the day of solidarity with the people of Iraq." It is a great and extremely effective deed which means that if the Islamic Republic of Iran is neutral in the war, it is not an indifferent bystander. [crowd chants slogans] We will not enter the war in favor of either side. We will not stand and watch either and say nothing while the Muslims in the region are suffering so much night and day.

As you know our country's officials have done their best to stop the war as soon as possible. Iraq must leave Kuwait. The multinational forces must leave the area. They should let the people in the region decide for themselves and run their countries as they wish. As you are also aware, as it is its duty, the government has been involved in all kinds of humanitarian activities, particularly what the Red Crescent has done with the cooperation of the International Red Cross to help the war wounded. This is an admirable and necessary deed that they have done, thank God.

I should also say that the actions of the Zionist regime in capitalizing on the situation are condemned. Since all the attention in the region is drawn to the war, it is increasing pressure on the struggling Palestinian Muslims. The Palestinian people must continue their struggle stronger than ever. [crowd chants death to counterrevolution, death to America, death to Israel. This is followed by Koranic verses in Arabic]

Qom Prayer Leader Calls Saddam 'Enemy'

LD0102172891 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1415 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Friday prayer sermon delivered by Ayatollah Meshkini, Friday prayer leader of Qom; in Qom on 1 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I feel I must mention something briefly about the war in the Persian Gulf. Here, the Iraqi Government is fighting against the multinational forces led by America. Who should we help? Our esteemed leader has clarified our duty in this respect. If we are to help—I am asking you—should we help the Iraqi Government which is fighting against America and the multinational forces, or should we help the other side? Everyone knows the answer. The issue of the Iraqi government is separate from that of the Iraqi nation.

Saddam, the Tikrit gang, Saddam's followers, and his ilk are all criminals and aggressors. They are tyrants against everyone. One day they attacked Iran and subjected us to their tyranny. Another day they attacked Kuwait and continued their aggression there. If anyone thinks Saddam should be helped, he is wrong. Saddam is not worthy of anyone's assistance. Saddam is a wolf, and if he could he would savage everyone. [passage omitted] Therefore, we are not justified in assisting Saddam. We are the enemies of Saddam, the enemies of Saddam's government, and of anyone else who helps Saddam's government.

On the other hand, America is also an enemy and one should fight against it. No one expects us to assist America either. But the issue is that of the oppressed people of Iraq. The Iraqi nation has been trampled under Saddam's boot for a long time. We must help the Iraqi people, the oppressed people of Iraq. Our government has already helped them and will continue to do so. Our leader has also recommended this. The oppressed Iraqi people were forced to fight against us. [passage omitted] But if one day our government were to invite you to assist the Iraqi people with foodstuff, medicine, and similar aid, you should help them. It is an Islamic instruction that we should be kind even with those people who have done wrong against us. [passage omitted]

Nationwide Demonstrations Show Support For Iraq

LD0102183791 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 1 Feb 91

[By Parviz Forouzanfar]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1 IRNA—Friday prayer-goers in the capital and throughout Iran staged demonstrations and protest rallies to condemn the U.S.-led air raids on the defenceless people of Iraq.

In Bakhtaran in the west, people group marched through the streets toward Jami' Mosque, the site of Friday prayers, denouncing the massacre of Iraqi Muslims by the U.S.-West European axis.

The marchers chanting anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli slogans called for an immediate end to the conflict.

The nationwide rallies were in response to a call by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i who named February 1 as the "Day of Solidarity With the Iraqi People."

Reports reaching here from the northeast part of the country said demonstrators in the holy city of Mashhad urged an immediate end to the conflict.

The other towns and cities of Khorasan also witnessed worshippers expressing their solidarity with the Iraqi people by protesting the air raids on the residential areas of Iraq.

Similar scenes took place in other parts of the country with Iranian Muslims demonstrating solidarity with their oppressed Iraqi brethren with whom they share close religious-cultural ties.

In Tehran, the Friday prayer was held this week at the shrine of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, coinciding with the 12th anniversary of his triumphant return to Iran after 15 years in exile.

Interviewed by IRNA at the end of the prayer in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, Civil servant Ali Mohammadi said: "The U.S. has come to the region in order to suppress the forces committed to the Islamic revolution."

The U.S., he added, has exploited Iraq's August 2 occupation of Kuwait as an excuse to deploy troops and wage war in the Persian Gulf.

"The Muslim people of Iraq are actually being massacred and the economic strength of Muslims is under serious threats. This should be stopped," he demanded.

For housewife Maryam Shahbazbeigi Ruzbehani the bombardment of Iraq's defenceless Muslims and the homelessness of tens of thousands who she said "form part of the ummah of prophet Mohammad (PBUH)" was "totally unacceptable."

She held both the parties responsible for the war and questioned "how can Saddam (Husayn) who is responsible for the homelessness of hundreds of thousands of the Iraqi people justify his acts before the Muslim ummah?"

Civil servant Hussein Alizadeh said: "The U.S. and other Western forces have not come to the region to liberate Kuwait but rather they are seeking ominous designs such as domination over the strategic region of the Persian Gulf."

He said: "It is true that we are neutral in the Persian Gulf war but this does not mean that we should remain silent vis-a-vis the savage bombings of Iraq by American and other Western warplanes which have become a routine affair."

Another Friday prayer-goer, Ali Husseini thought that "Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and that of foreign forces from Islamic lands was the only solution to this destructive war."

Marzieh Akbari, a teacher, said the Persian Gulf war was over oil and that the U.S. was trying to fullfill its dreams of dominating Europe by taking hold of this oil-rich region.

"Muslims will not allow the U.S. to massacre thousands of Iraqi women, men, and children in Iraq every day to satisfy their sadism," she made it clear.

Cobbler Mahmoud Hasanzadeh, said he shared with the Iraqi people "their calamities and problems."

Grand Ayatollah Warns Bush of War Consequences

LD0202213191 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Qom, Feb. 2 IRNA—Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegani in a letter addressed to U.S. President George Bush warned him against the dire consequences of U.S. attacks on the Iraqi people.

"To oust Iraq from Kuwait does not give you the right to launch thousands of raids on residential areas or massacre of civilian people," the Grand Ayatollah said.

Addressing the U.S. President, the Grand Ayatollah said: "You should know the world holds you and Saddam (Husayn) responsible for the war."

He made it clear that none of the international laws or the Security Council approved of such unprecedented devastation by the U.S. President.

The Grand Ayatollah also accused Bush of tarnishing the credibility of the U.S. people which he said could never consent to such crimes being committed against the Iraqi people in cold blood.

However, the Ayatollah condemned Iraq's August 2 occupation of Kuwait and called for its unconditional withdrawal from the tiny sheikhdom.

He also cautioned Bush "this is not a war that you can tolerate its consequences easily even if you could presumably win a military victory."

"Mr. President, you have set afire the region by commiting such mass killings. You should fear that the flames should spread to the world," he said.

The Ayatollah also urged President Bush to think twice before it was too late and by withdrawing from the region give a chance to impartial Muslim authorities to restore security and calm in the region. Otherwise, he warned, world Muslims would no longer tolerate the victimization of so many people.

Officials To Discuss Hajj Issue With Saudis

LD0402121291 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA - President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani said on Monday that Iranian and Saudi Arabian officials had been nogotiating to solve the issues of hajj pilgrimage and mutual relations for sometime before the current crisis erupted in the Persian Gulf on August 2.

"The main aim of these talks with the Saudis is to settle the issue of the hajj pilgrimage. Some progress had been made and we were close to an agreement. But the negotiations were halted with outbreak of the war in the Persian Gulf," Rafsanjani told a press conference.

Iranian pilgrims have been barred by Saudi officials from performing their annual hajj pilgrimage since 1987 when over 400 pilgrims mainly Iranians were gunned down by Saudi police and security agents while participating in an "antipathy towards unbelievers" rally in Mecca.

"Following the late Imam Khomeyni, the leader (Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i) is of the opinion that we should open the way for people to attend hajj so that they can fulfill their Islamic duty and the Foreign Ministry is now active in this regard," he said.

The president also confirmed news reports that the Iranian and Saudi foreign ministers intend to hold a meeting, saying "they are waiting for a proper opportunity to take the final step towards solving the hajj issue."

Paper Comments on Pilgrimage

LD0302102691 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Participation in this year's hajj ceremonies in view of the massive presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia to massacre Muslims cannot be accepted by Islamic Iran, said 'TEHRAN TIMES' Sunday.

Referring to the Saudi King Fahd's recent remarks hoping that Iran will forget the deplorable incidents in the past, the daily's editorial said, "Although informed political observers hold that the Saudis have agreed to Iran's conditions last year...the same observers argue that the conditions set by Iran only applied to last year."

"Now the massive presence of American forces on Saudi soil prevents Tehran from normalizing its relations with Riyadh."

Moreover, it said, "in case of the war being prolonged and brutal bombardments of Iraqi residential areas continued by the U.S.-led multinational coalition from Saudi soil...Muslims may stage an all-out ban on hajj ceremonies in protest against the House of Saud inviting infidel troops onto its sacred land."

Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Mauritania and Lebanon may also ban this year's hajj ceremonies, the daily predicted.

Paper Cited on Call for End to 'Unholy War'

LD0302181791 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3 IRNA—The Islamic Republic views that peace and security will return to the Persian Gulf region only after the full and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of the U.S.-led alien forces from the region for ever, said the editorial in "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" Sunday.

With almost three weeks into the "unholy war," Washington has not been able to materialize its ambitions, and with passage of time the U.S. and its accomplices are further being sucked into the whirlpool of events in the region, added the Persian daily.

The same is true in the case of Iraq, it said. "Baghdad had figured it would not remain isolated in the war, and had tried to turn events in its own favour through deceiving Muslim public opinion by firing several missiles on the illegal state of Israel."

However, the daily pointed out that world public opinion was not "in favour of the oppressed Iraqi people and against the Baghdad regime," and it stressed that Baghdad has no other option but to correct its mistake in regards to its "unjustified aggression against Kuwait."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said Iraq's continued presence in Kuwait means legalising the aggression and thus "a serious change in the political map of the region." This means "a grave threat to the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran," the Persian daily reiterated.

"Such military presence (of Iraq in Kuwait and the U.S.-led forces in the region) must not be repeated under any other pretext or in any new form," it said.

The paper also warned that if either of the parties to the war fail to withdraw or make a partial withdrawal, the crisis will linger on and may further spread in the region, "something which is not acceptable by the Islamic Republic."

To avoid such a scenario, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI urged all independent and neutral countries to intensify efforts for an immediate end to the war and bloodbath in the region, "something for materialization of which Islamic Iran is trying to convene an extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) and activate the Nonaligned Movement."

TEHRAN TIMES Editorial on Peace Efforts

NC0402115491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Positive Action Required To Halt Gulf War]

[Text] One week has already passed since the United States started to launch blitzkrieg attacks on Iraq for refusing to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. These attacks have continued incessantly and undoubtedly have caused untold and acute suffering to the Iraqi civilian population.

In response, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has remained defiant, making impressive, yet symbolic strikes against Tel Aviv, Riyadh and Dhahran, while seemingly preserving his airforce for what could become a war of attrition. To his [as published] end, the U.S. led alliance has toned down its initial euphoria about "victory in days" and apparently accepts that the war could take months.

The war, preceded by a drawn out 5-month crisis, was something no one wanted, certainly not the international community at large, which embarked upon numerous peace initiatives "put on ice" and the U.S. dominance in the Security Council to prevent the calling of a ceasefire.

Iran's continued position in the crisis has been that it should be settled by a regional solution and has looked upon both the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) and the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) to use their good offices as all involved parties in the region are members of both organizations.

Although neither body in the past has been recognized as an organization to stamp its authority on world events, each has been emerging from under the dominance of the superpowers and has made tentative attempts to resolve what has grown into a bloody conflict that threatens catastrophe and devastation throughout the Middle East, if not throughout the world.

In the latest consultations on Tuesday, two prominent NAM members, India and the current chairman, Yugoslavia, met in Belgrade, but according to reports, produced no concrete plans. Meanwhile, in Tehran, other senior countries in both organizations, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic held discussions, which resulted in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif saying Iran was an important state in the region, and being next to the theater of conflict, its principled stand had been greatly appreciated. [sentence as published]

With the United States and its allies still pressing ahead with the bombardment of Iraq unprecedented in history by the thousands of sorties carried out, no time should be lost in calling for rapid effective action to stop the senseless brutality. As suggested by its prime position, there is no good reason why Iran should not take the initiative for positive steps to be taken and forcefully ask for convening of both emergency conferences, or preferably summits of both the ICO and the NAM members without further delay, with Tehran as a possible venue.

Editorial on Nations Responsible for 'Oil War'

NC0202134791 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Jan 91 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "Those To Be Condemned for the Oil War"]

[Text] There is no doubt that the warring sides in the Persian Gulf are governed by materialistic motives. Therefore the two warring sides are condemned because no person or government has the right to enter a war with materialistic motives and to waste the possessions, lives, and resources of a nation.

Whether the motive is oil or hegemonism and expansionism does not change the nature of the issue. At any rate, all this is included under materialistic motives and it all leads back to oil. Had the Persian Gulf not been an oil-rich area, the occupation of Kuwait would not have aroused the sensitivity of America and its Western allies. This is exactly why they fear popular movements and Islamic uprisings in the region, as such uprisings would lead to a halt in the flow of cheap, or actually free, oil to the West and would threaten their domination over the interests and wealth of Islamic countries. This is why it is entirely correct and realistic to label the current war in the Persian Gulf as an "oil war." This label includes all the materialistic motives behind this war and leaves no room for any doubt that the warring sides should be condemned.

In gauging the extent of the condemnation the two sides deserve, it is clear that even though Saddam committed an ugly act by occupying Kuwait and paving the way for war, nevertheless as America and its allies were the ones to start the war, they committed a still uglier act. The fact that America and its allies are cruelly massacring Iraq's innocent people and destroying their resources only compounds their crime, and no one should doubt that America should be condemned and that voices should be raised against this mother of corruption of the century.

In addition the Saddam regime and America and its western allies, the governments in the south of the Persian Gulf—that is, the clans, each of which has usurped an Islamic territory—are also worthy of condemnation. They have sought refuge under America, not to confront an aggression but to safeguard their thrones. They have provided America and its allies with bases and are using all their resources to serve them. They are actually helping the aggressive foreign forces achieve their wretched and hegemonistic designs in the region. The Persian Gulf rulers are committing the highest act of treason against their nations by giving oil to the foreign aggressors and allowing them a free hand to consolidate their diktat in the region. Their place is in the front row of the chief criminals of the oil war, with the heaviest blame falling on the shoulders of the al-Sa'ud family for having brought America to the land of revelation and for having violated the sanctitity of the holy shrines.

The dossier of the oil war includes other criminals as well, and they too should be condemned. Turkey is an accomplice to the fomenters of the war because it has placed its bases at the disposal of the aggressive foreign forces. Syria, Pakistan, and Egypt are also accomplices because they sent their forces to Saudi Arabia and are cooperating with America and its allies. Japan falls into the same category because it is extending financial aid to the foreign aggressors who fomented the war.

There are perhaps other governments that should also be condemned for similar reasons. A very important point is that in addition to these actual criminals, the oil war dossier may also include potential criminals. The potential criminals in this dossier are those who are condemned not because of their participation in the war, but because of their failure to understand the realities correctly, their insufficient knowledge of the nature of the two warring sides, and the possibility they will adopt stands that could unknowingly help either of the warring sides.

The propaganda war forms one of the most important pillars in the oil war. Everything that Muslims, and especially the revolutionary forces, write or say should seek to clarify the nature of this war and the nature of the warring sides. No pen and no tongue should neglect this duty for a moment, for such neglect could result in the misleading of some justice-seeking but not adequately informed people, something that will ultimately be to the benefit of wrong.

What is now happening in the heartland of the Islamic world is a full-fledged mischief, and the heaviest responsibility in resisting this mischief rests on the shoulders of the revolutionary forces. All forces should act like the children of Imam Khomeyni and display a concordance of views and feelings and show support for the officials of the Islamic Republic so that they can confidently think of ways to end this mischief.

Anyone who is unable to recognize and carry out this important duty will not be fulfilling his revolutionary duty. Anyone who acts contrary to his revolutionary duty will actually be including himself on the list of those to be condemned in the "oil war." May God prevent this from happening to anyone.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Leftists Stage 'Peaceful' Anti-U.S. March

BK0202021091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1817 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 1 (AFP)—Some 3,000 pro-leftist students and youths from a number of organisations took part in an anti-U.S. March here Friday to protest the Gulf war, witnesses said.

The Asia-Pacific Students' Organization, All Nepal Independent Students' Association, All Nepal Peasants' Association and the Muslim community jointly organised the march to the U.S. Embassy here where they handed over protest letters.

The marchers chanted slogans like "U.S. Leave the Gulf Region," "Iraq Leave Kuwait" and "Israel Leave Palestine."

The march was peaceful although riot police kept a close watch on it.

Suspected Arab 'Terrorists' Deported to Thailand

BK0302124291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Kathmandu, Feb 3 (AFP)—Nepal deported four suspected Arab terrorists back to Bangkok Sunday after holding them for more than three days under tight security, sources said here.

"We are deporting these unwanted visitors who have come to Nepal without visas, to the country from where they have come," a highly placed Home Ministry source said.

The four suspected terrorists were put on a Royal Nepal Airlines (RNA) flight to Bangkok and Singapore which took off here at 1:30 p.m. (0745 GMT), a source at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport said.

The men had been held under tight security since their arrival here Thursday on a flight from Bangkok, sources said. [passage omitted]

The four, travelling on one-way tickets, were detained when they disembarked in Kathmandu, sources here said.

The suspected Arab terrorists identified themselves as businessmen when they disembarked and claimed that Thai authorities had seized 9,000 dollars worth of cash and goods and cash from their luggage, sources said. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Prime Minister on 'Possible' Visit to Baghdad

BK0402163791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has suggested a six- point plan for the solution of the Gulf crisis, including a general cease-fire, an unequivocal commitment by Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Gulf, and an emergency conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to consider all aspects of the crisis and suggest a concerted strategy. The prime minister was opening the debate on the Gulf crisis in the National Assembly this evening. [passage omitted]

Nawaz Sharif said that on the one hand, Kuwait has been subjected to illegal occupation, while on the other, Iraq is being destroyed by massive bombardment. He condemned bombing the innocent Muslims and said that the blood of the Islamic community is being shed. Its resources are being destroyed and its collective strength is being paralyzed. The crisis has provided an opportunity to the enemies of Islam to take full advantage of this situation and to fulfill their unholy designs. The situation hints at a very dark future for the Islamic community.

The prime minister said that under the circustances, it is impossible for Pakistan to sit idle and keep watching the destruction of the community. "With this in mind, I visited six Islamic countries of Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia on a peace mission. I will visit Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunis within a few days," the prime minister said. He said that several federal ministers will also visit Islamic countries of Asia and Africa so as to promote Pakistan's efforts for a solution to the Gulf crisis. These efforts are aimed at convening a conference of the ICO foreign ministers as early as possible.

Nawaz Sharif said that he sincerely wants to visit Baghdad himself, if possible, and meet President Saddam Husayn and secure his cooperation in the peace efforts. He expressed the hope that President Saddam Husayn will positively respond to his appeal.

The prime minister narrated the circumstances under which the Pakistani troops were sent to Saudi Arabia. He said that an agreement was concluded between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in 1982 and Saudi Arabia asked Pakistan to send troops when the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait led to the Gulf crisis. The decision in this regard was made at a meeting on 13 August last year which was attended by the president, the caretaker prime minister, the joint chiefs of staff committee chairman and the chief of the army staff. The decision was taken on the basis of principles and in Pakistan's national interests. This is why, after assuming office, I agreed with the decision as it was in conformity with our national interests. If anyone is opposing the decision now, then he is not working for Pakistan's interests. According to the decision, the Pakistani forces are not under the U.S. command, but under the command of Saudi Arabia. Nawaz Sharif said that Iraq should have attacked Israel instead of Kuwait.

The prime minister said that Pakistan opposed and rejected all sorts of U.S. pressures regarding Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program because we cannot compromise on our national interests. This is also an occasion which Pakistan adopted in the interests of the Islamic community and we will never deviate from this stand. He said that we bow our heads only to God Almighty, and we did not learn to bow to other forces. He assured that he and his companions will never refrain from making any sacrifice for the dignity of the Islamic community and will not rest until the Gulf war ends. He prayed to God for the success of his peace efforts.

Sharif Briefs Party Leaders on Gulf Peace Mission

BK0102163591 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] Political leaders and prominent politicians belonging to various political parties were briefed by the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad this evening about his peace mission to six Islamic countries and Pakistan's stand on the Gulf war. He told the participants that Pakistan was making hectic efforts to seek a peaceful solution and said if President Saddam Husayn makes an unequivocal commitment to withdraw from Kuwait, it would not be difficult to overcome the crisis. The prime minister said he will be going to Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and possibly the Yemen on the second leg of his peace mission on the 9th or 10th of this month. Similarly, teams of federal ministers will be visiting capitals of all the Islamic countries to seek their support for peace in the Gulf.

The prime minister said that Pakistan was paving the way for an OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] foreign ministers conference and when they saw hope, this conference will be held in Islamabad.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan's foreign policy was totally independent and they always stick by principles. He said Pakistan supports the UN resolutions on Kuwait and it has the same stand about resolutions on Palestine and Kashmir. He, however, expressed Pakistan's displeasure over the bombing of civilian population in Iraq.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting which lasted for two hours, the adviser on information and broadcasting, Shaykh Rashid Ahmed, said the prime minister replied to a number of questions by the politicians. To a question, the prime minister categorically stated that Pakistan would not compromise on its peaceful nuclear program. He also made it clear that there was no question of withdrawal of Pakistani troops from Saudi Arabia as long as the kingdom needed them for its security.

Shaykh Rashid Ahmed said the prime minister informed political leaders that Pakistani troops were sent to Saudi Arabia in accordance with the decision taken by the president, the caretaker prime minister, chairman of the joint chief of staff committee, and the three services chief. The prime minister further told them that in order to reach a conclusion for peace in the Gulf, it was necessary to meet not only those leaders who have similar point of view as that of Pakistan, but also those who have different points of view.

Answering a question, Shaykh Rashid Ahmed said Pakistan is keeping close contacts with Iran and our foreign minister has already spoken on telephone with his Iranian counterpart after his visit to the Islamic countries. A Yemeni envoy is already in Islamabad to discuss the Gulf situation.

The adviser on information and broadcasting said the subcommittee of the cabinet is meeting daily to take stock of a day-to-day emerging situation. The National

Assembly session has been convened to take into confidence the elected representatives of the people over the Gulf situation.

Ministers Sent To Further Sharif Gulf Peace Plan

BK0302013391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 2 (AFP)—Pakistan is sending four delegations to 12 Asian, African and Middle East countries to further Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's efforts to end the Gulf war, it was officially stated Saturday.

Three delegations will be led by cabinet ministers.

Without giving their schedule, a government statement said Production Minister Islam Nabi will visit Bangladesh and the Maldives, while Railways Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani will tour Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Minister for Kashmir Affairs Sardar Mehtab Khan will travel to Nigeria, The Gambia, New Guinea and Senegal, and a fourth delegation comprising two MPs [members of parliament] and a foreign office official will visit Yemen, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Sharif last week visited Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and is now planning to tour Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco from February 10 to pursue his efforts to stop the Gulf hostilities.

Saturday's statement was issued after cabinet committee discussions on the Gulf situation chaired by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

The meeting decided to send three ships to bring home Pakistanis stranded in the Gulf and Middle East countries, including pilgrims to the Moslem holy sites in Saudi Arabia.

Minister Leaves for Southeast Asia

BK0402101091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Feb 91

[Text] Federal Minister Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani has left Islamabad for Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei Darussalam as a special envoy of the prime minister to promote his peace mission to end the Gulf War. He is undertaking the trip following a decision by the cabinet committee on the Gulf that four delegations will be sent to the Islamic countries to hold talks with leaders of these countries and seek ways to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Before his departure, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani said that he is carrying Prime Minster Nawaz Sharif's message for the leaders of these countries, adding that he will also explain Pakistan's stand on the Gulf crisis.

Nuclear Program Not Compromised for U.S. Aid

BK0102131191 Karachi DAWN in English 31 Jan 91 p 16

[Text] Lahore, Jan 30—Pakistan has refused to accept the fresh American interpretation of the Pressler Amendment under which Islamabad would not qualify for the US assistance in case it had the components of a nuclear device. Previously, the US President was required to certify only that Pakistan did not have a nuclear device.

The Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission [PAEC], Munir Ahmad Khan, told a news conference here on Wednesday that the United States had been duly informed that "we'll never agree to the enlargement of the scope of this amendment or else Pakistan would have to close down even its research programme for peaceful application of the nuclear technology."

Pakistan, he insisted, does not have a nuclear device and it would never compromise its nuclear programme for the sake of American assistance. "We cannot roll back. We can't give up our right to acquire nuclear technology. Aid or no aid, there will be no change in our nuclear programme," Mr Munir Khan declared.

He said to the first instance the Pressler Amendment was discriminatory, because it was applicable only to Pakistan. Still, he said, Pakistan had done nothing so far which could attract this amendment or disqualify it for the American assistance. Nothing has changed since October, 1989, when the U.S. President issued certification for assistance to Pakistan.

The only change that has taken place, the PAEC chief said, was in the American attitude. "The problem is not technical but political. We have become politically expendable. The United States no longer gives Pakistan the priority and importance it has been giving it in the past."

He made it clear that Pakistan would not open its installations to international inspection, specially those built through local effort and resources.

About the future prospects, he said it was quite possible that the US would review its position. What had already been achieved could not be undone. The US would have to adjust itself to the situation.

In another context, Mr Munir Khan said the US had accepted Pakistan's point of view that Nuclear proliferation was a regional issue and it could not be contained just by containing Pakistan. "This is a significant step and a positive one." He said the US would like to bring India into the non-proliferation, and it was already trying to persuade the Soviet Union to exercise its influence on New Delhi.

About the ratification of Indo-Pakistan agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations, the PAEC Chairman said this was in bilateral interest and both sides would gain from it.

He said with this agreement with India, Pakistan's nuclear installations had become safe against aerial attacks, but intercontinental missiles from any other country could still hit them.

New Uranium Mining Technique Developed

BK0102124591 Karachi DAWN in English 31 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Lahore, Jan 30—The Chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Munir Ahmad Khan, told newsmen here on Wednesday that the Commission had developed a new and less expensive technique, called "solution mining", for recovery of uranium from low-grade deposits in sandy rocks, where traditional mining methods are not applicable.

The technique involves drilling a number of holes and injecting a suitable solution into the ore bodies. This solution dissolves the uranium contained in the rock. Afterwards, the uranium bearing solution is pumped out. The recovery of uranium is then carried out by ion exchange columns at the site.

This method is particularly useful for low-grade deposits or where construction of underground tunnels for ore mining is not feasible or is costly. This situation prevails in a number of areas in Pakistan, such as the Bannu Basin and the Sulaiman Range, where considerable deposits of uranium are present.

The Atomic Energy Minerals Centre at Lahore has carried out extensive research and development work for recovery of uranium, using the solution mining technique. It has constructed a pilot plant in an area bordering the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Punjab and significant quantity of uranium has been recovered by this method.

Further work is being carried out to establish the essential economic and technical parameters, so that it can be applied on a large scale.

Similar methods have been successfully applied for mining of copper and uranium in other countries like the USA and China.

This technique will also be helpful in mining gold and copper from the Saindak project in Balochistan.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Aid Cut

BK0202130291 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Feb 91 p 4

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Alternative"]

[Text] Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Comission, Mr. Munir Ahmed Khan, has reiterated Pakistan's stand that it would not compromise on its nuclear programme. Speaking in the context of stoppage of U.S. aid, he said the U.S. President had issued the required certification about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear energy programme in October 1989 but it was incomprehensible why such a certification could not be issued in October 1990. He said Pakistan remained committed to a nuclear-free South Asia but at the same time it would never accept any unilateral restriction on its peaceful nuclear programme.

Serious energy shortfalls have in fact been a major hurdle in the way of agricultural and industrial growth in Pakistan. The gravity of the energy problem faced by the country can be gauged from the fact that Pakistan is at present producing only 4,500 to 5,300 megawatts of electricity annually while its minimum current energy demand is 8,600 megawatts. Obviously, hydel [hydroelectric] -power the mainstay of the country's energy needs—is patently insufficient to bridge the growing energy gap. The energy position in Pakistan is gradually getting worse as a result of the oil supply crisis developing in the wake of the Gulf war. There is, therefore, no option left for Pakistan but to tap the inexpensive and inexhaustible nuclear energy source. Incidentally, China and France have offered to supply Pakistan with a reactor each of 300 and 900 megawatts respectively. It is estimated that the proposed 9000-megawatt French plant, when installed, would reduce Pakistan's oil imports by some 1.3 million tons, thus effecting an annual saving of Rs.[Rupees] 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 million in foreign exchange.

Islamabad has always willingly offered to sign the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] simultaneously with its neighbour and expressed its acceptance of full-scale safeguards or any other non-discriminatory measures which would ensure that nuclear weapons do not enter our region. However, the response from India has been invariably negative. India, which exploded a "peaceful" nuclear device in 1974, has lately inducted in its naval arsenal nuclear submarines as well. Obviously, the international strictures and restrictions on the nuclear issue are wrongly directed at Pakistan. The stoppage of American aid to Pakistan is one such discriminatory measure.

Sharif, Iranian President Converse by Phone

BK0302154791 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to keep each other informed about the results of their efforts to help end hostilities in the Gulf so that both countries can work together towards that end. Talking to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan by telephone today, Iranian President Mr. 'Ali Akber Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he had earlier appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to take steps that would help end the war.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan told the Iranian counterpart about the various efforts made by Pakistan in connection with the restoration of peace in Gulf.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also referred to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's recent visit to Iran and said his talks with him in Tehran were highly constructive and useful. He added that such talks on the main problems should help keep contacts close and further promote bilateral ties.

The Iranian president expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolence on behalf of the people and government of Iran on the loss of life in the devastating earthquake in the northern areas of Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Reiterates Stand on Gulf

BK0202134091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on the Gulf and said efforts for cessation of hostilities are continuing. Briefing senior journalists, intellectuals, scholars and analysts about Pakistan's Gulf policy in Lahore this afternoon, he said Pakistan is using every possible means to stop immediately indiscriminate bombing on the Iraqi people. He said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is sending ministerial delegations to different countries as a follow-up of his peace mission to six Muslim countries. The prime minister will also visit more Muslim countries to carry forward his peace mission if the need arises, he added.

Iranian Envoy Sees No Change in Iraq Stand on War

LD0302190991 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 3, IRNA—Iranian ambassador here, Javad Mansuri, said on Sunday that recent visit to Tehran of an Iraqi delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi was aimed at explaining Iraq's stance on the war to Iran. "They (Iraqis) did not show any change in their stand," he added.

"We feel duty-bound to make efforts to end the war and establish security in the region. Such efforts will (hopefully) lead to circumstances under which Iraq might change its stand.

"Therefore, we [words indistinct] international efforts until a change is made in war conditions prevailing in the region," Mansuri said.

Asked about a request by Pakistani volunteers that they be allowed to go to Iraq via Iran, he replied: "As regards the international law and our stance towards the war, it is not possible for us to agree to this.

"In case the Pakistani Government agrees to the despatch of volunteers to Iraq or intends to facilitate their trips, it can do this through other means."

Mansuri also condemned the alleged attacks on holy sites in Iraq by the U.S.-led forces and said: "However, we have not received any authentic information about this."

He made it clear that "religious sites such as mosques and churches should in no way be attacked or damaged or else Muslims and the followers of other divine religions cannot remain silent towards such perpetrations."

Elsewhere in the interview, Mansuri outlined Iran's viewpoints on various problems of the region. He also expressed sympathy with the quake stricken people in Pakistan and announced Iran's readiness to help them.

Iraqi Envoy Says Hajj Ceasefire Acceptable

LD3001165591 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 30 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 30, IRNA—Iraq has prepared for a long-term war, however, Baghdad is ready to accept a ceasefire during the annual hajj ritual if the U.S.-led forces do so, Iraqi Ambassador to Pakistan Isma'il Husayn Hamoudi [title and name as received] said here today.

"Iraq has not yet deployed the major part of its air and ground forces since the war is still in its preliminary stage, and military superiority will be determined once ground forces are deployed," Hamoudi said in an interview with IRNA here.

Terming as "false and unfounded" Western media claims concerning the accuracy of the Patriot missiles, he said Iraqi missile attacks have been "very effective" and that they have inflicted significant blows on the *Zionist* and Saudi regimes.

Quoting informed Iraqi sources he claimed that at least one Saudi AWACS at the Dhahran Airport had been destroyed by Iraqi missiles.

Hamoudi said Iraq considers all countries which have sent troops to Saudi Arabia as accomplices in the U.S. invasion, "Even those who have sent troops under the pretext of safeguarding the holy shrines (Mecca and al-Madinah in Saudi Arabia)."

The Ankara government is also an accomplice in the aggression but Iraq has refrained from responding only due to the support of the Turkish Muslims for Iraq.

He said all Iraqi cities from north to the south were still under heavy bombardment of the U.S.-led forces, and most of the residential and educational centers as well as mosques and even the holy sites in his country had been damaged.

The ambassador said 250 civilians had been killed and 300 others wounded until Monday as a result of the massive bombardments on Iraq. "Fortunately, the number of casualties is low despite the intensive bombings."

Hamoudi threatened that Iraq will continue its attacks against Israel and Saudi Arabia, and will retaliate any Zionist attack, even a likely atomic raid.

The Saudi clan will not be able to hold the hajj ceremony this year due to the presence of "Jews and non-Muslims" invited by Riyadh.

Commenting on Western reports on the number of Iraqi planes landed in Iran, Hamoudi said "they are exaggerating". Some Iraqi planes have faced emergency situations and landed in the Iranian airports. "We respect the decisions and regulations of our Muslim and neighboring country Iran," he added. Iran has said any plane from the warring sides landing in Iran for any reason will be held until the end of the hostilities.

Asked how would the Western forces justify their presence in the region if Iraq had not occupied Kuwait, Hamoudi gave IRNA a copy of a letter as well as a cassette, according to which he said the U.S. and Kuwaiti officials in a meeting, and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Shaykh Zayid of the United Arab Emirates in a telephone conversation had prepared the grounds for the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf before Iraq attacked Kuwait.

He said weakening the economic and military strength of Iran and Iraq was among the topics on which American and Kuwaiti officials had reached agreement before the Iraqi attack.

Yemeni Delegation Arrives for Gulf Talks

BK0102092991 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Feb 91

[Text] A three-member delegation from Yemen Arab Republic arrived in Islamabad today to hold talks on ways to solve the Gulf crisis. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the leader of the delegation and (?general) state minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Rashid Muhammad Thabit, said he has brought a special message from his prime minister for Mr. Nawaz Sharif. The message, he said, was about the prevailing Gulf situation.

Meets Prime Minister

BK0202162991 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] The special envoy of prime minister of Yemen, Mr. Rashid Muhammad Thabit, called on the prime minister in Islamabad today. He handed over to Mr. Nawaz Sharif a message from the Yemeni prime minister, Mr. Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, expressing his deep sorrow over the bloodshed and devastation in the Gulf war in the heart of the Muslim world. He appealed to the Pakistani prime minister to continue his peace efforts. Mr. Nawaz Sharif assured the envoy that there would be no letup in his efforts for promoting peaceful resolution of the crisis. He underlined deep concern and grief of the Pakistani Government at the catastrophic and far-reaching repercussions for the ummah [Islamic community]. The prime minister also emphasized the necessity of the continued Islamic efforts to bring the war to an end.

Army Chief on Need To Protect Values, Democracy

BK0202155591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Feb 91

[Text] Mirza Aslam Beg, chief of the Army staff, has stressed that the Armed Forces along with the nation should protect the national values and the democratic system, which will guarantee the dignity and honor of our people. Addressing officers of Malir and Karachi Garrison in Karachi today, he said that the Pakistani forces in the nineties are different in their outlook from those in the earlier decade. They are fully aware of their professional responsibilities and they have gained the respect and honor in the mind of the entire nation by fulfilling these responsibilities. General Beg presented his assessment of the situation in Kohistan, the war of independence in Kashmir, and the Gulf situation and its possible impact on Pakistan.

Bhutto Office Occupied After Pro-Bush Remarks

BK0102014491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1706 GMT 31 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 31 (AFP)—Students protesting what they called pro-United States remarks by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto forcibly occupied the main office of her party here, press reports said Thursday.

The protestors, belonging to the people's student federation (PSF) which supports Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said the PPP leader had praised the United States and opposed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The seizure Wednesday lasted three hours during which the students chanted slogans against Ms. Bhutto demanding she change her attitude.

Ms. Bhutto left Pakistan before the start of the Gulf war for private visits to Britain and the United States.

According to a press release issued from her residence in Karachi last week, Ms. Bhutto appearing on the ABC programme "Good Morning America" praised the handling of the Gulf crisis by U.S. President George Bush.

She was also quoted as saying President Husayn had been "cleverly developing the Islamic rationale for martyrdom."

PPP workers and student supporters have been staging demonstrations in support of Iraq and top party leaders have led a number of anti-U.S. rallies amid a surge of pro-Saddam sentiment in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

Spokesman on U.S. Request for Refueling Facility

For Aerial, Naval Craft

BK0202092091 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Feb 91

[From the program "International Report"]

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government says the United States and other countries in the military alliance against Iraq have asked to be given access to refueling facilities in Sri Lanka. A government spokesman, Mr Ranja

Wijeratne [minister for plantation industries and minister of state for defense] said the request is being considered.

Christopher Morris reports from Colombo:

[Begin recording] [Morris] Mr Wijeratne said the request for refueling facilities has been made earlier in the week and it is applied to both aerial and naval craft. The minister said a cabinet committee has convened to consider the request and the decision would be made in the next couple of days. However, reports suggest a number of Western countries, including Australia and New Zealand, have already made requests to refueling facilites which have been turned down. The United States Embassy in Colombo would not comment on its request until after the cabinet committee has come to a definite decision.

It is not clear whether Mr Wijeratne's remarks constitute a change of policy by the Sri Lanka Government, but even tacit support for one side in the conflict is a delicate issue for Colombo. The government has come out strongly in support of a putative iniative by the Nonaligned Movement to try to bring hostilities in the Gulf to an end. India, one of the leading members of the Nonaligned Movement, has already granted some refueling facilities to the United States in Bombay. Sri Lanka, though, has always stressed that it fully supports the United Nations resolutions aimed at forcing Iraq to leave Kuwait, but the government sources have made it known that they do not approve all the military measures being taken in the Gulf.

Sri Lanka has an added concern that several thousands of it citizens are trapped inside Kuwait. More than 60,000 were repatriated last year after the Iraqi invasion last year. But, thousands more, faced with the prospects of unemployment when they returned home, chose to take a chance and stay. [end recording]

Opposition Opposes Facilities

BK0302093091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 91

[Text] Opposition parties in Sri Lanka have warned the government against providing port facilities to U.S. aircraft and ships taking part in the Gulf War. In a statement issued in Colombo, they said that this step will drag the country into the conflict.